

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR WOLF PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 27, 2020

1. I respectfully ask that the Montana Fish and Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in wolf management units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. Many wolves taken in these two units are our beloved Yellowstone wolves. Of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. The data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent 95% of their lives in the park. The numbers of wolves hunting elk in these units have remained consistent the number of elk have increased by 76%. Hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units. In both units, the hunter success rate was higher in 2018 than in 2011. Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where non-consumptive wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild. The increase in the number of people who want to shoot wolves with a camera compared with the decrease in the number who want to shoot wolves with a rifle is significant. I come twice a year to marvel at the splendor, take photos and learn so much from watching the wolves. I come from Florida, so, it is not an inexpensive trip, I support the economy with my dollars as do thousands of other people every year. Watching the wolves and bears of Yellowstone is the largest draw of visitors to Yellowstone. Visitor dollars create jobs in the Montana gateway communities. With more wildlife watchers than hunters, wolves in these areas are much more valuable alive than dead. Experience shows that units 313 and 316 have gone over quota in the past and this year, the quotas need to be reduced to one in each unit.

Jane Newsome Panama City, FL

2. Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, We thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed wolf hunt for 2020-2021. Based in Gardiner, Montana, Bear Creek Council is an all-volunteer, grassroots advocacy organization. We organize citizens around issues that affect our quality of life on the doorstep of Yellowstone Park. Since the proposed changes to wolf harvest in 313 and 316 affects us so greatly, we were disappointed to not have had a public meeting in Gardiner. That said, we do have the following written comments that in summary argue that the wolf packs of northern Yellowstone are highly valued and require special protection. We urge the state to be very conservative with setting wolf harvest near the border of the park and so adopt the proposal by the commission to lower the quota to one wolf in each unit, 313 and 316. Our area is different. For over a decade, our membership has made the case to the state that our area's wildlife (e.g., wolves, bison, grizzly bears) require a nuanced approach to management that is in contrast to elsewhere in the state. As an example, we have seen firsthand how wolves are essential to our local economy, as well as, to Montana's larger tourism industry. Wildlife watching tourism is now the top economic driver in the Yellowstone region. Many of our 96 members are employed in or benefitting from the wildlife tourism that supports our area. But further, Bear Creek Council believes that native wildlife, like wolves, are intrinsically valuable and worth preserving not just for their value to people. Wolves provide both ecological benefit to their environment, and aesthetic benefit to people who chose to live in our area for these benefits. We do respect the rights of people to hunt wolves or to protect their property. Opportunities for wolf harvest are abundant throughout Montana, and are not

significantly reduced by lowering these quotas in two relatively small units. There is no livestock in 316, a wilderness area, and very little livestock in 313, the Gardiner Basin, so depredation has not been a persistent issue. North of us in Paradise Valley, wolf harvest rates reported by the agency are estimated to be very high, likely unsustainable, and so we urge the state to take a closer look at that and how it may be affecting game damage on private land. Similarly, we urge the state to investigate how wolves and other predators affect the spread of chronic wasting disease and other pathogens. High wolf harvest combined with high game density appears to invite the spread of CWD. Wolf studies in the park provide some of the world's most valued research on many topics, not least of which is predator-prey dynamics. These studies require great effort and investment by wildlife professionals and should be valued for producing answers to questions continually invoked in management debates. Protecting this effort, through protecting the study area packs and their subjects from harvest, promises to reveal insight to further conservation efforts not just in our region, but around the world. Why do these two wolves matter? Wolves are pack animals, and the loss of a single individual, a leader, can cause the pack to disperse. We are concerned about harvest of wolves that generally reside in northern Yellowstone but will occasionally wander beyond the border. This accounts for much of the known harvest for these two units in past seasons (including 2018 and 2019). Perhaps the most prominent case occurred at the end of 2012, when two wolves that constituted the leadership of the Lamar Canyon pack were killed in a hunt. They most frequently resided in the Lamar Valley, a world-renowned destination for wildlife watching, but happened to leave the park. The loss of these two park attractions drew local and international condemnation and calls for boycotting the tourism industry. At the same time, the loss of these key individuals triggered a series of events that led to further wolf mortality, and ultimately to fewer wolf sightings in the park. The final result was a down-turn in the area's wildlife watching industry. After 2012, the reduction of quotas in Montana (through advocacy efforts) and the cessation of hunting in Wyoming (by federal law), allowed the industry to build back some of its lost prosperity. We are loath to see a repeat of this incident; and so we urge the state to reduce quotas in these areas where harvest of just one individual wolf could have an impact on an entire industry. Please consider our request and our positions as stakeholders in wildlife management that affects many people throughout the region. Respectfully submitted, The members of Bear Creek Council Box 440 Gardiner MT 59030

Dr. N. Varley Gardiner, MT

3. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I support your suggestion to change the hunting limits for wolves to one per person. Wolves are important parts of the ecosystem especially of the Yellowstone region. In addition it would be great if it would be prohibited to kill wolves wearing collars because they are part of a scientific study.

Hunting District Comment: Please do not allow wolf hunting near the Yellowstone boundaries. The wolves don't realize where the boundaries are and the wolves of Yellowstone are being studied.

Andrea S. Furlong Evergreen, CO

4. I support the proposal to reduce the quota in the areas north of Yellowstone since these are natural areas and not ranch land. I visit Yellowstone regularly to see the wolves and contribute to the local economy.

Linda Kervin Logan, UT

5. **Wolf Season Comment:** I visited Yellowstone in 2018 specifically to see bears and wolves. Under the guidance of local experts we were privileged to observe both animals in their natural habitat. The packs resident in Yellowstone and adjacent areas can only thrive if allowed to develop without being culled by hunters. Apart from their undoubted value to the Yellowstone ecosystem they are also a tremendous draw to the area. We will be returning soon to once again observe these magnificent creatures and to spend money in your country!

Hunting District Comment: I do not, as a resident of the UK, have detailed knowledge of the system of Wolf Hunting District Boundaries. However, I can without hesitation say that boundaries which reduce the possibility of wolf packs being affected by hunting must be a priority.

Robert Jones Loughborough, UK. MT

6. As an American, proud of my country's historic and geographic heritages, I am asking the commissioners to finalize the proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas from 2 to 1 in hunt units 313 and 316, which are wild lands, not ranch lands. We must treat the wolves that live in the northern reaches of the park with respect and dignity. Anu Koiv Boulder CO We have nearly taken it all!!! Only 5% of pristine wilderness remains in the U.S., the rest has been taken for agriculture, ranching, and development. Wolves are part of our national heritage and deserve to have areas where they can peacefully exist. Wolves play a big role in maintaining the ecology of Yellowstone by being a keystone species. Please do the right thing, vote in favor of the wolves.

7. "Dear Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners, and Director Williams: I thank Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners for voting to set the wolf hunt quotas at 1 wolf each in WMUs 313 and 316. I am writing to support that low quota! If it is possible, I would prefer to have a quota of zero in these units. In Gardiner basin, where I live, wolves hardly ever depredate on livestock. This is a wilderness area, and wolves are invaluable to our tourism industry, both in Gardiner, and throughout Montana. Also, wolves that have been radio-collared in Yellowstone are crucial to 25 years of internationally recognized science that has helped us understand this species and its relationship to prey species and to the ecology of any place wolves are found. I was disappointed to see that MTFWP did not schedule the usual meeting for public comments on Season Setting in Gardiner. Since we are most affected by changes to quotas in WMUs 313 and 316, which are in the midst of our community and the back-country around us; since wolf tourism is key to our economy; and since wolves directly affect our ecosystem, it seems especially important that we in Gardiner and Cooke Cities be given a voice! I'm sad to report that those who support a 1 wolf quota in 313 and 316 each and traveled from Gardiner to speak, found a hostile crowd in Livingston. They were booed when they made their comments. Other supporters of the lower quota were afraid to give comments and left without speaking. It is time for FWP to reconsider the ways they structure meetings for public comment.

Here are my other concerns about how wolves are managed in Montana:

- Montana harvested 40% of our wolves in 2019. This is far above FWP's 29% maximum goal. Montana is over-harvesting wolves. In Paradise Valley, where there are complaints of too many elk, the number of wolves killed in the hunt was much higher than 40%.
- Wolves manage our elk better than we do. In Yellowstone the cow-bull ratio in the elk herd is healthy; not so in Gardiner and north. That's because wolves do not target the biggest bulls. They target the most vulnerable prey—what they can manage to take down. I am not opposed to hunting, but we need to manage wolves carefully. No wolves; too many elk.
- I feel strongly that MTFWP should manage wolves differently in different regions of Montana. That would mean in Gardiner area, we would take the fewest wolves because here they are valued as native wildlife; crucial for tourism; serve as excellent managers of our elk herd; and they are radio-collared for research. In a region-by-region approach, hunters could kill more wolves in areas where wolves may add to the pressures that elk are facing (like the Bitterroot) and take fewer along Yellowstone and Glacier borders.
- Wolves are one of the few mammalian species that are cooperative breeders. They live in packs and killing 1 or 2 wolves may do-in an entire pack. I would like to see this biological reality reflected in quota-setting.
- We residents know and biologists have shown that there aren't truly resident wolf packs in Gardiner basin—this is a wolf sink. Packs don't last long here. So, I would like to see a revised method for counting wolves in our area, that includes the approach FWP takes when it works YNP to determine which are Yellowstone and which are Montana packs.
- Why aren't Wildlife Watching Tourism and Research listed in MTFWP's "Measurable Objective #3: to maintain positive and effective working relationships with livestock producers, hunters, and other stakeholders?" Tourism, specifically wolf tourism, is too large an economic force in Montana to be swept into the catch-all of "others." Research is an economic and scientific contribution to the USA and the world. Wildlife Watchers and Research Biologists should be named stakeholders. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Thank you, Commissioners and MTFWP agency staff, for the difficult, but important work of managing our extraordinary wildlife in Montana. Sincerely, Ilona Popper Gardiner, MT"

ILONA POPPER Gardiner, MT

8. I think 313 and 316 should have only one Wolf taken. There are plenty of Elk there for a good harvest. Wolves spend most of their time in the Park according to the telemetry. Thanks, Peter Murray

peter Murray Enugrant, MT

9. As a regular visitor to Yellowstone National Park to view and photograph, I support the proposal to lower its wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316. Ideally I would prefer the quotas in these hunting areas to be lowered from 2 to 0 to better protect the Yellowstone wolf packs that draw so many wildlife watchers, but at least the existing proposal is a step in the right direction. Reasons to consider changing the quota in these areas from 2 to 0 include - -- 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. -- Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. -- Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with

chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. -- Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state.

Kathy Adams Casper, WY

10. **Wolf Season Comment:** Can't imagine what ecological value there is in a wolf hunting season at all.

Hunting District Comment: Zero wolves killed would be better. But 1 wolf killed is better than 2. Killing top predators is short-sighted at best, and stupidly cruel at worst. However, am glad to see MT taking some steps to protect its wolves from indiscriminate killing.

Peg Rooney Penrose, CO

11. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a member of Bear Creek Council, I know that you value the comments of residents living closest to the areas in question. I experienced your appreciation of our comments during the 16 years I lived in Gardiner. And I fully support the efforts of Bear Creek Council and Gardiner area businesses, livestock producers, and residents in their requests to reduce the wolf quota in 313 and 316 to zero if possible, one if necessary--no more. These hunting areas are on the border of Yellowstone National Park, where the rare opportunity to see a wolf draws people from around the world--people who spend a lot of money in Gardiner and who support many of my friends who are guides, service providers, photographers, artists, educators, and scientists. Very few livestock producers live in the Gardiner Basin, and at least one family is among our founders. We believe in living with wildlife AND livestock. We respect hunters and their guides, who too deserve to sustain their businesses. But they have plenty of other areas to hunt. Please leave 313 and 316 alone; let the hunters go elsewhere. Thank you. Cordially, Carolyn Duckworth

Hunting District Comment: I am not familiar with this proposal, but I urge you to withdraw 313 and 316 from wolf hunting, for the same reasons I gave regarding the 2020-2021 season changes. Thank you.

Carolyn Duckworth Harpers Ferry, WV

12. **Wolf Season Comment:** "As a citizen concerned with protecting our national resources, wolves are essential to protect. Science has proven that wolves naturally cull themselves. There is no need for hunting wolves to keep their populations in check. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. Wild areas 313 and 316 are not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Wolves also hold a high value in restoring the ecosystems where they live which is hugely important to maintaining human life on the planet. This has been proven by science in trophic cascades. I would like to see the wolves in wild areas 313 and 316 protected year round. •

Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area."

Hunting District Comment: I would like to see no hunting of wolves at all. However I understand that a compromise is needed. I think the numbers should be lowered because of the restorative impact wolves have on the ecosystems. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Wolves keep the herds culled and prevent disease from spreading. You just have to look at the science of trophic cascades to see the benefit to all not killing wolves. We need to right the wrong we humans did to wolves in our country. There is opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area. I think this is also too long of a season and needs a quota. It is time for the human race to change its belief systems and stop the killing of wolves to protect not only the planet but for our races survival. We need to see past the hate and fear and do the right thing. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Lemes Mililani, HI

13. It's hard not to like a dog. Originally a scavenger, tolerated by people many thousands of years ago, Tolerance might have led to acceptance and interdependence. Eventually they were domesticated by humans. Wolves during this period were also scavengers. Hunting over the same ground as humans. Selecting the ill or weakest animals. Pulling apart the remains of animals hunted by others and taking what they could. Common history tells us that in the wolf we find the ancestor of the dog. We have no need to harness the wolf for domestic use or companionship. Tolerance and interdependence thrive within Yellowstone. I have watched closely struggles of the Red Wolf Project in North Carolina. Bound in numbers, politics and so forth. I commend the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for their recommendation. The borders of Yellowstone are open. This is not ranch land. There is no predation in 313 or 316. The recommendation to reduce the allowed harvest from two to one is significant. Ultimately none would be taken and the number reduced to zero. I have studied the behavior and habits of humans and animals well over five decades. The failures of both exist. It is my considered opinion that the Commissioners have an opportunity to make right this issue. Respectfully submitted from Georgia, Sally Speed Athens, Georgia

Sally Speed Athens, GA

14. I support the reduction of wolf tags in the units adjacent to YNP. It would make sense to close the units to wolf hunting rather than dealing with complications of track wolf kills and hunter notification of hunters, I spend about 60 days a year in the northern range and contribute financial to the Montana economy. Photographing wolves is a big attraction to me,

Raymond Laible Pocatello, ID

15. **Wolf Season Comment:** Tourism brings millions of dollars into the Yellowstone National Park area, and yet the very wolves who attract tourists to the area are in danger of being legally shot once they step foot outside the park. These wolves are, to a degree, habituated to humans and are not fair game. Studies have shown that elk numbers have not been decimated by the wolves in the Yellowstone area.

Hunting District Comment: The two zones directly outside of the park have quotas that have been over hunted annually. These zones should be closed to hunting, since the damage done to packs that generally stay within the park boundaries is enormous and often mean the end of pack cohesiveness.

katherine saunders Neskowin, OR

16. **Wolf Season Comment:** Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland 40 Above the Rest Gardiner, Montana 59030 Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, We, Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland, reside in Gardiner and thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed wolf hunt for 2020-2021. We urge the state to adopt the proposal by the commission to lower the quota to one wolf in each unit, 313 and 316. We of course believe that there should be zero take in these units, but understand this is not being presented as an option at this time. Opportunities for wolf harvest are abundant throughout Montana, and are not significantly reduced by lowering the quotas in these two relatively small units. Why the focus on these two units? We believe that the wolf packs of northern Yellowstone require special protection. Wolves that generally reside in northern Yellowstone occasionally wander beyond the border. These occasionally wandering wolves account for much of the known harvest for these two units in past seasons (including 2019). Ideally, as stated above we support reducing the quotas to zero, but at least reducing it to one (a move in the right direction) would serve to protect the unique values of wolves in northern Yellowstone. Wolf studies in the park provide some of the world's most valued research on many topics including predator-prey dynamics. These studies are valuable and produce answers to questions continually invoked in management debates. Reducing hunting in units 313 and 316 would help to assure the continued success of these studies and the insights they provide. In addition, wolves are intrinsically valuable and worth preserving because they provide both ecological benefit to their environment, and aesthetic benefit to people who chose to live in and visit our region. We also urge the state to take a look at the current wolf harvest rates reported by the agency in Paradise Valley to the north of us. These high, likely unsustainable rates of take may be resulting in increased game damage on private lands. The high game density associated with high wolf harvest may also play a significant role increased spread of chronic wasting disease. Please consider our request , Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland Gardiner MT

Hunting District Comment: Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, We, Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland, reside in Gardiner and thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed wolf hunt for 2020-2021. We urge the state to adopt the proposal by the commission to lower the quota to one wolf in each unit, 313 and 316. We of course believe that there should be zero take in these units, but understand this is not being presented as an option at this time. Opportunities for wolf harvest are abundant throughout Montana, and are not significantly reduced by lowering the quotas in these two relatively small units. Why the focus on these two units? We believe that the wolf packs of northern Yellowstone require special protection. Wolves that generally reside in northern Yellowstone occasionally wander beyond the border. These occasionally wandering wolves account for much of the known harvest for these two units in past seasons (including 2019). Ideally, as stated above we support reducing the quotas to zero, but at least reducing it to one (a move in the right direction) would serve to protect the unique values of wolves in northern Yellowstone. Wolf studies in the park provide some of the

world's most valued research on many topics including predator-prey dynamics. These studies are valuable and produce answers to questions continually invoked in management debates. Reducing hunting in units 313 and 316 would help to assure the continued success of these studies and the insights they provide. In addition, wolves are intrinsically valuable and worth preserving because they provide both ecological benefit to their environment, and aesthetic benefit to people who chose to live in and visit our region. We also urge the state to take a look at the current wolf harvest rates reported by the agency in Paradise Valley to the north of us. These high, likely unsustainable rates of take may be resulting in increased game damage on private lands. The high game density associated with high wolf harvest may also play a significant role increased spread of chronic wasting disease. Please consider our request , Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland

Robin Rauch and Bill Bridgeland 40 Above the Rest Gardiner, Montana 59030

17. Our business is a local Education / Research Center which, for example, will host 15 colleges, universities, and professional classes from four countries this quarter (Jan - Mar). These groups have considerable influence (multiplier effect) in and outside the state of Montana. It is very difficult to justify to the teachers and students why the State of Montana allows research tagged wolves to be killed. In the areas next to the Park livestock issue are very low and do not justify the loss of research information. Financially these groups and our other groups bring considerable money into the Gardiner area each year. However, our groups react negatively to the "black eye" that hunting of research animals gives to the State. We are NOT an anti-hunting organization, I, myself, am a hunter but find it difficult to personally justify the hunting of wolves on the border of the Park. Many of these wolves are completely used to the presence of humans and lack normal fear and escape mechanisms when a hunter is present. The hunting of Park wolves is NOT fair chase. Let the hunters take wolves further from the Park research zone! I fully support decreasing the quota and would be for reducing it to zero for 313 and 316. Respectfully, James Halfpenny, PhD.

James Halfpenny Gardiner, MT

18. I am writing to voice my support for lowering the wolf quota in WMU 313 and 316. I am one of the millions of visitors that come to the Yellowstone area regularly for the wildlife. I come, I bring my extended family, and we spend money. The wolves of the Yellowstone region are a unique and wonderful resource, they are known and appreciated by people all over the world and they belong to all Americans. They have made the region a better place both ecologically and financially. These animals that took so much time and effort to be introduced, they should not be hunted so close to the park. Montana is a huge state with a tremendous amount of land available to hunt. Hundreds of wolves are killed every year, asking for 2 less is not an unreasonable request. Too many of the Yellowstone wolves that have been taken were from these 2 districts. That is unacceptable. 313 and 316 are wild areas, so livestock is not an issue. In addition, the wolves killed in these areas are known individuals and from packs well known to park visitors. The Yellowstone park boundaries are very sensitive areas. These wolves are valuable; they are a large part of a growing ecotourism industry that brings good business and

good money to your state. Therefore, I respectfully request that you approve the proposal to lower the wolf quota in 313 and 316 to 1 each.

Kristen Keefe Fayetteville, NY

19. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am writing to ask that the quotas for the taking of wolves in WMU 313 and WMU 316 be lowered to one (1) in each Management Unit. I would prefer these units be closed but that cannot happen under MT law. These units border Yellowstone Nat'l Park. Wolves that are in these areas primarily stay in the park and pose little to no threat to people or property in Gardiner or Jardine. These wolves are supported by taxpayers across the country and by those who come to Gardiner and other MT communities who spend money to go to the park to see wolves AND grizzly bears---the top two attractions of the Park. I spend money at the Bozeman airport, I rent automobiles in Bozeman, I shop in Gardiner and Bozeman. I buy gas in Gardiner and Bozeman. I spend money on hotels in MT to see wolves in Yellowstone. For the past several years I travel at least two times a year to Yellowstone and normally with a group of 6-10 people who ALL want to see wolves. Per the USFWS Survey conducted every 5 years, hunting in general has been declining. Fishing has passed hunting in numbers of anglers and money spent to fish. However, wildlife watching has been ahead of fishing for over 5 years beating out both hunting and fishing in numbers and money spent on travel and equipment. Nonconsumptive users of wildlife do contribute to conservation and support of wildlife. The difference is that nonconsumptive users money is not funneled through state wildlife depts in the forms of licenses or tags but we do indeed contribute money. Therefore, our comments and wishes should be considered just as equally. The wolves in Yellowstone rarely travel outside of the park through 313 and 316 and get into trouble. Therefore, I am asking that you lower and keep the quota in each unit at one. Thank you for your consideration.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries of 313 and 316 could be made smaller. There is no reason to have the boundary as far as Tom Miner Basin or Yankee Jim Canyon to the north and west.

Kristi Lloyd Hickory Corners, MI

20. **Wolf Season Comment:** I respectfully request that the Commissioners of MTFWP reduce the wolf quotas in WMU 313 and 316, which units border Yellowstone National Park, from 2 to 1. Yellowstone wolves have clearly been demonstrated to be worth more alive than dead as a keystone species in the Yellowstone ecosystem in maintaining healthy and strong populations of elk and deer. I, like many others from across the country and from all over the world, have traveled to Yellowstone, "America's Serengeti" to see the Park's spectacular variety of wildlife, especially Wolves. In my particular situation, I have been doing so since the early 2000s. In the 21st century, it is most unfortunate that the attitude from the 19th and early 20th Century that "the only good predator is a dead predator" still persists to this day. It would be a great shame if we simply repeated the same mistakes, based on the same ignorance about the role of predators in a healthy Ecosystem, as made in those earlier times. I typically travel to Yellowstone twice a year, staying in the Gardiner, MT area and spend about \$8,000 a year to do so.

Hunting District Comment: See comments above.

JOHN DANIELS GLENOLDEN, PA

21. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Larry Hinson Aiken, SC

22. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a wolf supporter and Sierra Club Group Chairperson I highly recommend that your actions to reduce wolf kill around the park are agreed upon and taken into action.

Hunting District Comment: Please protect the wolves not only in Yellowstone but outside of the park. They are very important for the ecology of the land and for eco-tourism!

Sara Schultz Williamsville, NY

23. I am strongly in support of reducing the wolf quotas in Units 313 and 316 to one each per season. These areas adjacent to YNP are not ranch lands, they are wild land and park wolves cannot tell there is a boundary there. There are plenty of areas in MT with long hunting seasons for those who feel compelled to take a wolf life. It was YNP and its wolves, a complete ecosystem, that brought us to MT to live, that brings many friends to visit and support the economy of this area in particular.

Mary Swanson EMIGRANT, MT

24. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would like to encourage wolf hunting numbers be kept low for the following reasons. - Those wolves who are causing losses to livestock need to be removed but I'd like that to be done after proper authorities are notified. Other than that, wolves are simply a "trophy" and I do not condone trophy hunting.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries should be far removed from Yellowstone Park in particular. Animals do not recognize human drawn boundaries and there is no justification for making wolves that are based in YNP to be legally hunted in territory akin to their safe areas.

Carol Scallan Cincinnati, OH

25. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves in and near the boundary of Yellowstone should not be hunted at all. These are public lands. Even if grazing is allowed there it is the risk of the rancher. Cattle destroy public lands. The quotas should be lowered.

Hunting District Comment: Reduce the quota to zero in the boundary of Yellowstone in 313 and 316.

Katherine Adams Wolf Creek, MT

26. Dear Commissioners, I'm going to keep this brief, as far as the science goes, as I'm sure you've been inundated with emails and testimonials in support of reducing the wolf quotas in 313 and 316. I'll let my friend, colleague and PhD Ecologist Nathan Varley remind you of the science. But I do have a slightly different perspective to share. I've worked in the Gardiner area as a ranger naturalist, author, fly fishing and wildlife guide and non-profit founder and director for nineteen years. I've had the privilege of being the head boys' basketball coach at Gardiner High and serving on the first Region 3 Citizen Advisory Committee. As a dad and author, I make my living and pay my bills, not as an author or speaker (this is supplemental income for trying to make it in Bozeman, Montana), but as the General Manager for Yellowstone Wolf Tracker (THE WILD SIDE LLC), based in Gardiner, Montana. The science is clear. We all know what wolves do on the landscape, and I can certainly see the argument of those in favor of keeping the quota at two wolves in districts 313 and 316. What difference does two wolves make? Ecologically, two wolves might seem trivial, but this is shortsighted and fails to take into account the reality of what happens on the ground when Yellowstone wolves are harvested—even if it's just two animals. Yellowstone wolves are celebrated internationally. Each day, from my saddle at Yellowstone Wolf Tracker, I speak with and email people from all over the globe, flying into Bozeman, securing lodging in Gardiner, eating at local restaurants, purchasing local gas, for one reason, and one reason only: they want to see wolves in the wild. As the former Bear Education Ranger and author, I've traveled from coast to coast speaking about Yellowstone and its bears. But do you know what everyone wants to talk about wherever I speak? Yellowstone's wolves. I—like so many other people across Park and Gallatin Counties—make a living, helping Yellowstone visitors see wolves in the wild. This is a gift, doing something we love, and we realize it's a gift worth fighting for. In 2018, over 300 wolves were taken in Montana. Why we are allowing any Yellowstone wolves to be hunted in 313 and 316 is beyond me. It's simply not good logic. Last fall, the loss of two Phantom Lake Pack wolves led to the entire pack dissolving, a pack that was highly visible to the thousands of visitors that travel to Montana each year to view Yellowstone's wolves. We saw the same thing happen in 2012 with the Lamar Canyon Pack (a story that drew local, national and international condemnation and calls for boycotting our local tourism industry), when critical members (leaders) of that pack strayed outside of the park. These incidents have a huge impact on wolf watching in Yellowstone. Yellowstone is a treasure. It's a sacred place. It's an international biosphere reserve. It's a Wyoming park, that Montana reaps tremendous benefit from. Let's not forget, these are Yellowstone wolves we are talking about. At some point in life, it's about doing what's right, what makes sense, for the benefit of the greater good. There is absolutely no reason why the 313 and 316 quotas shouldn't be reduced to zero. There's absolutely no sensible argument for hunting wolves on Yellowstone's doorstep. So please, let's be sensible by reducing the quota of wolves in these two units. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comment. For a wild world, Michael W. Leach

Michael Leach Bozeman, MT

27. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** What can I say or add to what has been said. I moved to Utah 15 years from Ohio to be closer to these fine National Parks and Yellowstone specifically. My first of

many trips started in 1991. My first meeting of Ranger Rick M. was in 1996 and spotted my first wolf...didn't expect that to happen! Since then have had a lot of my friends out to show them and have met a lot new ones in YNP. So from a money stand point for economy I've spent in 29 years and as many trips at least.....I just hit the adding machine and I almost passed out!! Now from an ecology point of view there is enough scientific research info to sink a ship! Yes the ranchers have to be protected with out a any argument but lets not wipe any more wolves animals then needs be! I'm never the smartest guy in the room but just don't you be the dumbest one in that room!!! If you take anyone thing out of the circle of life you will see major changes.

Hunting District Comment: As far as 313 and 316 in the northern boundary again these need to be protected since they affect no one!

Will K. Logan, UT

28. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please keep the wolve quotas as low as possible. they are so important to the echo system of precious yellowstone. When a wolf is killed in surrounding areas it has a devastating effect on the packs in Yellowstone and potentially the park itself. There needs to be a better solution for everyone than killing wolves.

Hunting District Comment: these areas of concern are wild areas and not ranching areas. please let the wolves be in this area as they are not a threat to livestock in these districts.

Andrea Garvin middleton, MA

29. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. I am a wildlife filmmaker who spends much time and money in Montana. I value wolves ALIVE.

Melissa Rohm Pittsburgh, PA

30. **Wolf Season Comment:** Yes, please reduce the wolf hunting quota in Units 313 and 316 from 2 to 1 wolf in each unit. These units are close to Yellowstone and it is highly likely that wolves in this area are part of valued Yellowstone packs. As demonstrated in the past, the loss of a pack leader to hunting could significantly damage or destroy the viability of the pack. The ecological value of wolves is undisputed. Scientific studies have concluded that ecosystems have improved where wolves have been re-established (see, for example, <https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/yellowstone-streams-recovering-thanks-wolf-reintroduction>). Furthermore, there are many other opportunity for wolf hunters in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. Units 313 are sensitive areas because of their proximity to Yellowstone; they are not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is not an issue. Thank you for carefully considering my comments.

Hunting District Comment: see comments above.

Vicki A Hill Glen Ellen, CA

31. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support decreased quotas on wolf hunting or eliminating wolf hunting in the Yellowstone area. I visit this area primarily for the chance to see wolves
Hunting District Comment: It appears this should have limited or no impact on livestock
Michael O'Brien La Crosse, WI
32. **Wolf Season Comment:** Hello. I would like to see the wolf hunting quota be reduced as low as possible... if that is still one wolf as an option, then it is still better than shooting two. Wolf watching has provided my family with living since we are tour guides in Yellowstone Park. Please lower the quotas, and dont shoot the wolves.
Hunting District Comment: Please keep the boundaries as far away from Yellowstone Park as possible. The wolf packs often wander - and having a buffer is the best thing to keep the wolves that wander from Yellowstone Park safe. Thank you.
Erica Hutchings West Yellowstone, MT
33. **Wolf Season Comment:** Kill all wolves
Hunting District Comment: Kill em all
Jay Billings, MT
34. I agree and support FWP commissioners proposal of lowering the wolf quota in areas 313 and 316. There are more than enough places in other parts of the state to hunt wolves. This area is important for wolf research and tourism. Wolves are important to our economy and bring in money from tourists that come here specifically with hopes to see a wolf. Wolves also prey on weak or sick elk and deer which can help us deal with the chronic wasting disease. My family and I support the lowering of the quota to one wolf in these areas. Thank you.
Joyce Miller West Yellowstone, MT
35. **Wolf Season Comment:** Thank you for proposing to lower the wolf quotas to one wolf in areas 313 and 316. My family and I agree and support this idea. Hunters have plenty of other places to hunt wolves in Montana. Let's keep this wilderness area, with no ranches, with this low quota to help maintain the important wolf research being done. Let's also remember how much money wolves bring in for Montana in the way of tourism. People come from all over the world to our state because this is the best place to have a chance of seeing a wolf for them. Also, with chronic wasting disease showing up in our state we want all the help we can get in controlling this problem. The wolves prey on weak and sick deer and elk. This will be a big help in controlling the chronic wasting disease and will lower the amount of money the state has to put into this problem. Thank you for hearing my comments.
Hunting District Comment: Thank you for proposing to lower the wolf quotas to one wolf in areas 313 and 316. My family and I agree and support this idea. Hunters have plenty of other places to hunt wolves in Montana. Let's keep this wilderness area, with no ranches, with this low quota to help maintain the important wolf research being done. Let's also remember how

much money wolves bring in for Montana in the way of tourism. People come from all over the world to our state because this is the best place to have a chance of seeing a wolf for them. Also, with chronic wasting disease showing up in our state we want all the help we can get in controlling this problem. The wolves prey on weak and sick deer and elk. This will be a big help in controlling the chronic wasting disease and will lower the amount of money the state has to put into this problem. Thank you for hearing my comments.

Arrick Lyle Swanson West Yellowstone, MT

36. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Please reduce the quota to zero in these sensitive areas since they are usually wolves from the park that should be protected!

Hunting District Comment: Please eliminate the sensitive areas from your hunting areas as these are typically not where livestock are raised! The ecosystem of the park depends on these wolves!

Kathleen Thompson Clinton, NY

37. My family and I support the proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone National Park's border. We strongly support this proposal for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it's a wilderness area that borders Yellowstone. There are no ranch lands and wolves in Yellowstone move and travel back and forth across this unknown invisible border to them. Yes, it's true, my family and friends want wolves safe from being hunted, but if we take out the emotions and focus on other things it is still a good idea to lower the wolf hunt quotas to only one wolf in each area mentioned. The facts are, wolves bring in lots of money in tourism, lots. I've been in Lamar Valley and Hayden Valley and seen first-hand just how many visitors are there hoping to see a wolf. Many travel from across the country or from other countries just hoping to see one. This is one of the big reasons they come here. They know their best chance to see a wolf is here. So they come here, to Montana and Yellowstone, for this opportunity and they bring their money to spend with them. It boosts Montana's economy and helps all sorts of small and big businesses alike. Another fact is wolves manage elk and deer and help keep the herds healthy. Wolves target pray that are weak or unhealthy. This can help control the chronic wasting disease. This will help lower the money needed to control chronic wasting disease, the wolves are there to naturally help control this. Once again wolves help Montana's finances. Last, but not least, there is plenty of opportunity for hunters to kill wolves in the rest of Montana. This small wilderness area should be protected from that and managed differently because there is ongoing wolf research and tourism that generates Montana's economy. I think it is important to mention that my family and I are not fans in anyway of hunting or killing wolves. I do however, know that there is the love/hate relationship and arguments on both sides. I also understand that this proposal of lowering quotas makes sense because of where 313 and 316 are located. My family and I strongly support and agree with the FWP commissioners that the wolf quota in these areas should be lowered to one in each area as proposed. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Lorie Swanson West Yellowstone, MT

38. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I support Montana FWP commissioners' vote to change the quota the agency had suggested from two to one wolf for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern

boundary of Yellowstone Park. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: I support Montana FWP commissioners' vote to change the quota the agency had suggested from two to one wolf for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park. Units 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. I also strongly support no trapping during the off-season of fur-bearer trapping on All Montana Public Lands.

Gregg Robinson Billings, MT

39. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf reintroduction to the Yellowstone ecosystem has had huge benefits. Not only has it helped rebalance the fauna and flora of the national park, but the tourism benefits to towns and states around have been enormous. I support no or minimal hunting of wolves in units 313 and 315.

Hunting District Comment: I do not think that wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border, where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is appropriate. Hunting units 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. So they can be a beneficial partner in this. Ideally the quota in these units would be zero. But a quota of 1 is an improvement over 2. There are many other areas of the state for wolf hunting.

Chris M MacIntosh Menlo Park, CA

40. **Wolf Season Comment:** I do not support any hunting of Wolves. Their average age is only 5 and have shown clear evidence how the reintroduction has helped Yellowstone. They prey are mostly the aged, and young

Hunting District Comment: It is a Wildlife area, so there is no reason to hunt here

DONNA HILYARD LONGWOOD, FL

41. I would like to support the lowering of the quota to 1. Of course, if it were possible to go lower I would wish for that. I have been following the restoration of the wolf population and have been quite captivated by its success. I have signed up for a wolf watching trip in February and will be staying in Gardiner along with my friends and we wish to support local businesses there that are watching over the preservation of the wolf population. I have become so interested in the studies of wolf restoration that I have now read 8 books about wolves and contribute to the White Wolf Sanctuary in Oregon. It would seem highly inappropriate to hunt and trap along Yellowstone's boundary where wolves are so highly regarded and of course, they know no boundary. As I understand it, 313 and 316 are wild areas and so any potential livestock depredation would not be an issue. Please know that wolves have such high value for ecotourism and the ecology in your state that I would hope that you would support every effort to protect them.

Diane Longcore eugene, OR

42. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** The hunting season for wolves need to be shortened. 6 months is way to long of a season. The season should be no more than 2 months and the quota should be lowered.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread.

Teresa Clay Charlotte, NC

43. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** The quota should not be lowered, it should be raised

Hunting District Comment: They should stay the same

Jessica Livingston, MT

44. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** The decimation of Montana's big game herds is 100% due to wolves. That mistake has been made. It is time to correct it. Do the work of rhe people and manage our resources for sustainable use. The current practice of wanton waste by protecting predators which have doubled and tripled population goals is enough, do your damn job and get rid of the invasive specie wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Remove all boundaries, seasons, license/tag requirements, limitations on methods of take for all wolves in Montana.

James Vastbinder Kalispell, MT

45. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I propose to lower the wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundaries to help protect and preserve the wolf populations in Yellowstone.

Hunting District Comment: Please do whatever it takes to save the Yellowstone Wolf populations.

Ken Barker Maryland Heights, MO

46. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Please lower the wolf hunt quota. Wolves are an apex predator that facilitate healthy ecosystems.

Hunting District Comment: Wildlife is better with wolves!

Meriel Meehan Evergreen, CO

47. ***Hunting District Comment:*** We spend our valuable vacation time and dollars in Montana every year. To own real estate in the Choteau area or Immigrant area for our families enjoyment is a goal not yet realized. The Glacier areas and Yellowstone areas are the main draws for us. Experiencing the wolves of Yellowstone off trail is truely magical as I have been lucky enough to do several times. Being from rural Pennsylvania I was raised and participated within a strong hunting tradition. I understand it's appeal and function. I am asking that you please consider

reducing the permitted wolf kills in districts 313 and 316 to zero. The wolf populations of Yellowstone are extremely important to all of us in our country and remain extremely vulnerable. The loss of a single individual to hunting immediately outside the Park could be devastating to it's pack. From what I understand the population of wolves in the Park is fairly stable as of late. Please consider my request so it may remain so. Thank you. Look forward to being in Montana again this year.

Henry D Egley Saegertown, PA

48. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the wolf hunt in sensitive areas of Montana. Especially the area around Yellowstone Park where the wolves bring in money due to tourism and help provide a healthier elk herd. I ask you just lower it by 2 less wolves hunted

Hunting District Comment: Boundary area surrounding Yellowstone National Park. Please lower the wolves hunted in this area by 2. Wolves in the park will go outside of the park boundaries and are hunted. This affects the social dynamic of the wolves in the park in a negative way. Wolves in Yellowstone provide the area with tourism and more money for the economy. Improves the health of the elk by harvesting the sick elk, wasting disease.

Cindy Bredeson Gardiner, MT

49. **Wolf Season Comment:** We stay in montana every year for the express purpose of watching wolfs and bears those areas should be 0 hunting

Hunting District Comment: As said above those areas should be 0 hunting we spend a lot of time in Montana your tourist industry draws in more monies then wolf hunting

Joe Melby Moorhead, MN

50. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am a resident of a hunting state of Pennsylvania. I feel that a 6 mo. time to hunt wolfs is too long. A hunting season of this length has to effect the entire population of wolfs, and moves once again toward extinction.

Hunting District Comment: These area of 313 and 316 are wild areas. We visit every year to see the wolfs. I agree of a lower quota number . In Pa. we have CWD with no predators to help remove it. The wolfs help to remove those animals that may have this condition. We travel inorder to see the wildlife Montana has to offer. I feel there needs to be a larger area around the Park to keep these Wolfs safe.

Robert Paul Harris DuBois, PA

51. **Wolf Season Comment:** No season!

Hunting District Comment: Absolute minimum 50 mile buffer around YNP and GTNP... zero wolf tags inside the buffer. 10k minimum fine for violation.

G Nielsen Waterloo, IA

52. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support reducing the number of wolves allowed to be hunted directly next to the park

Hunting District Comment: I support limiting the hunting boundaries adjacent to the park

mike golden Castle Rock, CO

53. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the lowering of wolf quotas. I have visited YS for years, spent many thousand wonderful hours and DOLLARS enjoying the region and watching the wolves and other wildlife. I travel to YS about twice a year with Yellowstone Wolf Tracker and the wolves are the draw. That business, as well as others, helps support the region's economy

Hunting District Comment: The Districts border YS and are wild lands, not grazing grounds. Pack members often wander or hunt in those areas and their deaths disrupt packs and consequently affect tourism revenue. I support lowering the quota in these districts. Wolves seek the sick or weak elk they hunt, preventing the spread of disease. Please lower the quotas - its amazing how one species affects not only the ecology but the economic wellbeing of the area.

Linda G. Davis Pfafftown, NC

54. I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Yellowstone and the opportunity to see wolves is a very big part of that. Given the remoteness of the hunting zones in question along with their proximity to Yellowstone National Park, the invaluable ecological impacts and corresponding scientific research wolves enforce and provide opportunity to, as well as the value favorable public sentiment places on wolves through ecotourism in the thousands of visitors and millions of dollars, I ask you to please lower the number of wolves that are allowed to be harvested in areas 313 and 316, and ultimately to lower the number of wolves harvested in the rest of your state for the same reasons.

Jason Evitt Aspen, CO

55. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please eliminate wolf hunting anywhere near YNP.

Hunting District Comment: See prior note. Thank you.

Robert Neiers Hot Springs, SD

56. I support lowering the wolf hunt quota. The indiscriminate taking of pack members causes issues within the pack then into the area the fractured pack resides. Also, with the popularity of wolf watching, it makes financial sense to keep a greater number of wolves to entice tourists to come to the area and bolster the economy year round.

Stephanie Wright Halifax, PA

57. **Wolf Season Comment:** Why do you need to hunt them at all? Liquidate the problem wolves and cherish the rest.

Hunting District Comment: See the above.

Jeffrey Guettinger Eau Claire, WI

58. **Wolf Season Comment:** Only problem wolves should be removed. The licenses should cost the same as mountain goats or cougars.

Hunting District Comment: There should be an extended no hunt boundary around Yellowstone NP

Gerlinde Seupel Bozeman, MT

59. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly support the lowering of the wolf hunting limit in Montana, especially in sensitive areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

Hunting District Comment: I have personally witnessed firsthand how burgeoning ecotourism in the Yellowstone region has enhanced the economy of Montana and adjacent areas. Limiting wolf hunting in sensitive areas can only be a positive.

Steven M Schultz, DVM Williamsville, NY

60. Coming from a country (England) which exterminated its last wolf back in the 17th century and has seen the gradual degradation of its small remaining woodland by its expanding deer population ever since, I welcome full protection of the wolf in maintaining a natural balance. I also strongly support a zero hunting quota in units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park, Montana, USA. Activities such as wolf watching have, I am informed, supported the regional economy in Montana, some \$35-70 million annually. I will be coming to the USA in April 2020 for a fortnight in Yellowstone to spend time with the company Wolftracker so contributing to Montana's economy.

Henry Fitch Cambridge, UK MA

61. **Wolf Season Comment:** Open year around

Hunting District Comment: Include the Park too.

Henry Steve Constable White Sulphur Springs, MT

62. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am vehemently opposed to wolf hunting and trapping and agree the quota should be lowered. Hunters and special interest i.e. Cattleman Association have dictated law for too long. Citizens across the country ask for the protection of wildlife in national parks and ask the political motives be put aside and abuse by the science. Protect natural resources and don't allow political motives and special interests dictate. Lessen the season to hunt and the quota.

Hunting District Comment: I am vehemently opposed to wolf hunting and trapping and agree the quota should be lowered. Hunters and special interest i.e. Cattleman Association have dictated law for too long. Citizens across the country ask for the protection of wildlife in national parks and ask the political motives be put aside and abuse by the science. Protect natural resources and don't allow political motives and special interests dictate. Lessen the season to hunt and the quota. While I oppose hunting and trapping in zones where protection should be enacted small changes as decreasing hunting zones and lower quota is improvement. Protect natural resources don't bow to the political motives and let science dictate.

Lisa Toohey POUGHQUAG, NY

63. **Wolf Season Comment:** Y'all gotta be crazy to even think about lowering the quota. Not enough wolves? I call bullshit. 🙄

Hunting District Comment: Idaho had the right idea. I will be getting 30 tags this fall no matter what boundary.

Arron Macmenamin Boise, ID

64. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly support lowering wolf hunting quotes from 2 to 1 in hunt units 313 and 316 in Montana. This is a protection for the Yellowstone wolf packs which benefit Montana in so many ways. The tourism dollars that pour into Montana for viewing wolves is a huge benefit to the state. This is an area not used by cattle so no arguments against lowering the quota will be raised by ranchers. The wolves help balance the species by eliminating the elk and deer with chronic wasting disease. The wolves live in packs and are impacted beyond just the one wolf that is killed. Thank you for the opportunity to present these positions as to why the quota should be lowered.

Hunting District Comment: Please support

Ellen Raymond Burr Ridge, IL

65. I am absolutely opposed to reducing the quota in 313 and 316 there no reason to. I am in these areas a min of 2 weeks each year and the wolves are not in decline the elk and moose are. These hunting areas are not in YNP and they do not control hunting quotas in Montana.

Henry Glenn Wilsall, MT

66. **Wolf Season Comment:** Quotas should be lowered to zero to maintain ecotourism and research. Wolves can help to slow elk and deer diseases. In 2018 over 300 wolves were killed in Montana. This proposal is asking for only 2 less.

Hunting District Comment: These boundaries are wild areas not ranch lands so livestock depredation is not an issue. Hunting and trapping along Yellowstone border is inappropriate.

Nancy Dufour Cold Lake Alberta Canada AL

67. **Wolf Season Comment:** Decrease wolf numbers, not elk moose bison and deer numbers. Wolves need to be kept in balance. Even in Yellowstone.

Hunting District Comment: More wolves need to be harvested! give hunter more chances to keep the wolves in check.

Chris Barton Rose, OK

68. I'm a year-round resident of Gardiner, Montana writing to comment on proposed wolf harvest limits in units 313 and 316. Because these units are immediately adjacent to Yellowstone National Park and because wolves in Yellowstone NP occasionally wander outside the park, the wolf harvest quotas in units 313 and 316 should be set at zero, but a quota of one wolf in each of these units is much more acceptable than a higher quota. Yellowstone wolves have enormous ecological and scientific significance. Killing of wolves that mostly reside in Yellowstone NP dramatically and negatively impacts vital ongoing ecological research studies. In addition, wolf-watching draws many thousands of visitors to Yellowstone, especially to the park's Northern Range. These visitors spend millions of dollars annually in Montana. Therefore, I urge you to lower the quota for units 313 and 316 for the 2020/2021 seasons. The quotas set for units 313 and 316 need to reflect your recognition of the scientific importance of

Yellowstone wolves and your awareness of the tremendous value of Yellowstone wolves to the economy of the entire state of Montana.

Katharine Duffy Gardiner, MT

69. I am against reducing the quota in both 313 and 316. Instead of reducing the quota's, leave them as they currently are. I doubt FWP has biological data supporting the need for a reduced quota. No doubt you are bowing down to social pressure to reduce the take of wolves in these hunting districts.

Dale Martin Billings, MT

70. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Michele Rosado Chicago, IL

71. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Please lower the count to zero.

Hunting District Comment: Please move the boundaries away from Yellowstone.

Michelle Kennedy Sioux Falls, SD

72. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** The voters in Michigan outlawed wolf hunts. Most voters are urban don't see wolves as competitors. Groups of photographers are going west hoping to photograph wolves, not shoot them.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting near the park portrays local residents as not appropriate of urban visitors.

John White Grand Blanc, MI

73. Our family has been hunting, fishing, camping and packing through WMU 316 for over 40 years. We have witnessed this part of your state transformed from the "Serengeti" of North America to a "wildlife desert" that could rival Minnesota's primary wolf zone. It is our hope that your state can avoid ceding game and fish management to the "large predators" driven by the Federal Government and an emotion directed Court System. You should be increasing wolf harvest quotas rather than cutting them in half.

Bruce Hein Audubon, MN

74. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I am representing Dome Mountain Ranch, as the general manger for the past 21 years, It has been obvious from what we see and have seen out in the field, that in order to help save the few remaining elk in this Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd the wolf population

needs to be managed. It has been noted in your spring elk count reports/maps by the previous elk biologist these past several years, that a good portion of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd has been staying on our ranch and the surrounding northern boundaries of our ranch, more predominantly over these past 5-6 years. Dome Mountain Ranch is located north of the "Yellowstone National Park buffer zone". This "buffer zone" with an extremely low wolf quota, the reintroduction of the wolf and mismanagement of this so called buffer zone has disrupted the 15,000 year migration pattern of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd, it is extremely obvious as you drive through the Dome Mountain Ranch property along US Hwy 89 South. These elk are here year around now and it's not because we're great farmers. They have been pushed out of Yellowstone Park and now pushed further north another 20 miles due to wolf predator pressure coming from Yellowstone Park & now the "buffer zone". I encourage you to take a drive through Yellowstone Park and see how many elk you see, not too many beyond Mammoth Hotel. The last changes FWP made to this quota in the "buffer zone" was admitted by the commission that it was strictly a decision based on social pressure and it actually went against what your paid biologists were recommending based of science. How is this being in the best interest of all wildlife. This elk herd has taken several hard hits in a short time of 15 years by this wolf program, all the years of relocating elk from here to start herds in other states that didn't have them and now our herd needs help but nobody seems to want to realize it. . These elk are comfortable at Dome Mountain Ranch because we have been able to manage the wolves properly here. I'm not a biologist or a sociologist but I'm pretty sure if you removed the "buffer zone" and reverted back to the boundary prior to the addition of the "buffer zone", the elk would more than likely want to go back toward Yellowstone Park more. If you do want more of these elk to head back to the park, now would be the time to start helping them out because we've noticed a lot of them don't migrate back anymore and there are now generations of elk that don't know to migrate back to Yellowstone Park in the spring. So now you are proposing to lower the wolf quota again, not based on scientific biologist recommendations (because you don't have one currently) but again, strictly based on social pressure? This is wrong for so many reasons. We strictly oppose the lowering of the wolf quota in area 313. We support to remove the wolf quota system in this buffer zone and revert back to 5 licenses per hunter as it is throughout the state. I welcome any commissioner or any persons of influence in these decisions to come out to our ranch anytime and talk with us, we would be happy to share with you what we see out in the field. I can be reached and available anytime at (406)333-4361 or (406)223-3597. Thank you for your time.

Hunting District Comment: As a Dome Mountain Ranch representative, the only changes to area 313 wolf hunting district boundaries that we support is to remove the "buffer zone" and revert back to Yellowstone National Park's previous northern boundary prior to the addition of the current "buffer zone" I cannot find any mention of any proposed wolf hunting district boundary changes anywhere. Nor was there ever any mention of any changes or proposals at the Livingston FWP Public Meeting January 15, 2020.

Lennae Guyer Emigrant, MT

75. At least the propose reduction in number of takes should be adopted. Given that thousands of citizens visit Yellowstone NP, specifically with the goal of enjoying the opportunity to see wolves, the state is shooting itself in the economic foot by allowing any hunting takes. Those

thousands spending money versus one hunter for the price of one hunting license and permit make no sense. Removal of a wolf from a pack has been shown to result in loss of prey image and more likelihood of predation on livestock - if livestock was significantly present in the area in question.

Ronald D Harden Loveland, CO

76. I absolutely believe the quota should be lowered to 1 wolf in districts 313 & 316, if not 0. The wolf is an asset to Montana tourism & is solely a huge part of why people visit Yellowstone. These packs that are mainly in the park should not be targeted as soon as they cross the park boundaries. When hunters shoot into these packs they kill, injure many, and destroy these packs. A great example is the phantom lake pack. Tourist adore these animals & hearing about packs or individual wolves (926F) they have seen & love being shot makes them not want to come back. Wolves are a huge part of the ecosystem and Yellowstone's surrounding towns prosperity. If you cannot make the quota 0, then at least bring it down to 1.

Caitlyn Landi-Bishop Gardiner, MT

77. **Wolf Season Comment:** No wolf hunting. ZERO. LEVE THE WOLF POPULATION ALONE.
Hunting District Comment: NO WOLF HUNTING OUTSIDE THE PARK.

cynthia Handel Livingston, MT

78. As a resident of Gardiner, as well as a guide in Yellowstone, I absolutely agree with the decision to lower the bounty of wolves in district 313 & 316 to one wolf in each of those districts.

Nolan Darr Gardiner, MT

79. **Hunting District Comment:** We come yearly to Montana and spend hundreds of dollars as tourists so we can watch the wolves in Yellowstone's northern tier. Please lower the wolf hunt quotas to zero in hunt units 313 and 316. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. Thank you for taking my comment to heart. Pam Nodus

Pam Nodus Greenbank, WA

80. **Wolf Season Comment:** We support the reduction in wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf. My husband and I visited Yellowstone two years ago and will be returning this coming April, specifically to try to see wolves again. Our lodging is in Montana and we are using a guide company from Montana. We would not be visiting and contributing to your economy if you did not have wolves.

Hunting District Comment: We support the reduction in wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf. My husband and I visited Yellowstone two years ago and will be returning this coming April, specifically to try to see wolves again. Our lodging is in Montana and we are using a guide company from Montana. We would not be visiting and contributing to your economy if you did not have wolves.

Patricia Hunt and Phil Tanner Easton, MA

81. **Wolf Season Comment:** More Wolves need to be harvested. Not less. The Ungulates are trusting that you will help them survive and the Wolves are going to starve if you dont!

Hunting District Comment: We need more areas with Wolves in them not less. Again the Wolves are eating themselves out of house and home and are having to eat cattle to survive!

Shawn Milton Issaquah, WA

82. I am a student currently studying wildlife conservation and animal behavior. I am excited for the opportunity to travel to Yellowstone National Park in mid-March. I am really looking forward to the opportunity to learn so much about the wolf reintegration in the park and how it impacts the whole ecosystem. As I have done some research in preparation for my trip, I am very glad to hear the proposal to lower its wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf. As a student, I am learning a lot about the different impacts of the wolf population in the park, as well as the impact that hunting has on the population. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to travel to Yellowstone where the park is highly regarded and known for the wolf population. I think it is inappropriate to have high quotas for wolf hunting and trapping with how popular the park is to travel to. I think the wolves probably bring in a lot of revenue from the tourists. Also the areas in question are not at risk for wolves preying on livestock. The wolves in these areas also help prevent or decrease the spread of disease and pathogens among the elk and deer since they target the chronic individuals. Hunting also decreases the presence of wolves for tourists since the wolves become more skittish and wary. I hope when I travel to Yellowstone I am able to see the beauty of the entire ecosystem as well as the wolves that reside in these sensitive areas.

Nicolette Runko Howell, NJ

83. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please take action to reduce hunting and trapping of wolves in Montana close to Yellowstone National Park.

Hunting District Comment: Please reduce the quota from 2 to 1 wolf in Units 313 and 316, wild area adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

Bruce Ackerman Montrose, CO

84. As a resident of a nearby state to Montana, I frequently travel through Montana on the way to Yellowstone National Park spending money on lodging, food, and gas. One of my primary reasons to visit the Park is to wolf watch. While I would prefer the limit in the areas adjacent to the Park to be zero, I am in favor of the lower proposed hunting limits in areas 313 and 316. Past hunting of wolves adjacent to the park has decimated some park packs and disrupted valuable

research. In addition, evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread which is a benefit to the State of Montana and the surrounding area. Again, I'm in favor of the reduced limits in areas 313 and 316. Thank you for considering my comments.

Teresa Meachum Idaho Falls, ID

85. I support lowering the quota for the sake of the wolves, humans, deer, park, and ecosystem that will all be direly affected by the continued hunting and trapping in 313 and 316.

Mira Lerner Lancaster, PA

86. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** We come to Yellowstone NP each year to watch the wolves and we and other people who come for the same reason pump millions of dollars into the local economy. We believe that there should be no wolf hunting in areas adjacent to the park.

Hunting District Comment: The areas adjacent to the park are wild areas and no ranch land and so do not pose problems for ranches in this area. The wolves taken n these adjacent areas are from the pack and are habituated to humans and pose no sport for hunting, but they are extremely important for ecotourism, research and the local economy.

James shapland St. Paul, MN

87. Wolf population needs to be reduced.

Denise Logan Florence, AZ

88. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** My name is Krisztina Gayler. And I Respectfully request that the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. The Only reason I make trips very often is because the more I have learned about Wolves in Yellowstone National Park, the more I want to know. I have become part of many organizations, that are helping with research, and educating the public about the important role Wolves play in a healthy Ecosystem. The realization of the importance of Wolves in the wild has continued to grow in me, and has gotten stronger after every single visit. Since we can observe and learn about them closely in Yellowstone, I am spending my hard-earned dollars in the surrounding towns, as in Gardiner, Silver Gate, and Cooke City, before one of our well known wolves was killed by a Cooke City resident, business owner in Cooke City.. I have not spent any dollars there since. None ! In every trip I spend at least \$1000.00 for gas, and food, plus lodging, camping, gifts and membership at Yellowstone Association, which is now Yellowstone Forever, where we also donate for the Yellowstone Wolf Project. I approximately spend about \$5000.00 - \$10000.00 per year during my visits. After few of our wolves have been killed just outside of the park, which wolves I have been watching and following their daily lives, I witness how they trust Humans, after they have been habituated by millions of visitors per year. Since one of our most famous wolves was killed in November of 2018, I have decided not to spend my hard-earned dollars in businesses who support wolf hunting in these areas. So I am keeping down, to the minimum, my spending in Montana. Only the gas which I can't avoid. I considered even moving to Montana because of Wolves, as great opportunity to treasure a more balanced Wildlife. I have no problem with hunting for meat, but I can't see the

real need of the wolf hunting quotas just outside of a World Famous National Park, where these animals don't know and don't understand artificial human Boundary lines and constraints. I would consider spending more and spending more of my time in Montana, if the wolf hunting would stop North of Yellowstone, at WMUs 313 and 316. However I respect the fact, the quota can't be zero as the law was made before the reintroduction. Therefore, I highly support, propose the idea of lowering the quota in both unite 313 and 316 from 2 to 1. These animals represent and mean so much to hundreds of thousands of people, who are watching and following their lives on a daily basis. The Government spends tremendous dollars on Wolf Research, which has helped the World to better understand the Real Wolf, rather than the fairy tale version. Just does not make sense to me to destroy these Families (Packs), especially one important member of the pack, as most cases show that trophy hunters are after the adults, the alpha animals. I also follow the data year by year, even in person in September, October, November visits, the quota is hardly ever stops at the limit of 2. Many times it is over taken by 3 animals. This number actually totally can destroy a pack. 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. (2019 comment by Senator Phillips to Montana Senate re: SB 185) So the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's Northern Range helps determine the number of wolves hunted outside the park in 313 and 316. In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2011) Talking Points for Commissioner Email 2 In 2018, they counted 39 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2018) While the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%. Please consider these facts before you make your final decision Thank you for kind consideration of this matter. With all Respect and Best Regards, Krisztina Gayler Krisztina Gayler Colorado Representative at National Wolfwatcher Coalition Crew Member of The 06 Legacy Ranching Out-reach, Livestock Guardian Dogs Coalition Member at Rocky Mountain Wolf Project Contractor at MoRak Farm & Ranch LLC Mailing: POBox 161. Livermore, Colorado 80536 Cell: 970 372 7402

Hunting District Comment: My name is Krisztina Gayler. And I Respectfully request that the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. The Only reason I make trips very often is because the more I have learned about Wolves in Yellowstone National Park, the more I want to know. I have become part of many organizations, that are helping with research, and educating the public about the important role Wolves play in a healthy Ecosystem. The realization of the importance of Wolves in the wild has continued to grow in me, and has gotten stronger after every single visit. Since we can observe and learn about them closely in Yellowstone, I am spending my hard-earned dollars in the surrounding towns, as in Gardiner, Silver Gate, and Cooke City, before one of our well known wolves was killed by a Cooke City resident, business owner in Cooke City.. I have not spent any dollars there since. None ! In every trip I spend at least \$1000.00 for gas, and food, plus lodging, camping, gifts and membership at Yellowstone Association, which is now Yellowstone Forever, where we also donate for the Yellowstone Wolf Project. I approximately spend about \$5000.00 - \$10000.00 per year during my visits. After few of our wolves have been killed just outside of the park, which wolves I have been watching and following their daily lives, I witness how they trust Humans, after they have been habituated by millions of visitors per year. Since one of our most famous wolves was killed in November of 2018, I have

decided not to spend my hard-earned dollars in businesses who support wolf hunting in these areas. So I am keeping down, to the minimum, my spending in Montana. Only the gas which I can't avoid. I considered even moving to Montana because of Wolves, as great opportunity to treasure a more balanced Wildlife. I have no problem with hunting for meat, but I can't see the real need of the wolf hunting quotas just outside of a World Famous National Park, where these animals don't know and don't understand artificial human Boundary lines and constraints. I would consider spending more and spending more of my time in Montana, if the wolf hunting would stop North of Yellowstone, at WMUs 313 and 316. However I respect the fact, the quota can't be zero as the law was made before the reintroduction. Therefore, I highly support, propose the idea of lowering the quota in both unite 313 and 316 from 2 to 1. These animals represent and mean so much to hundreds of thousands of people, who are watching and following their lives on a daily basis. The Government spends tremendous dollars on Wolf Research, which has helped the World to better understand the Real Wolf, rather than the fairy tale version. Just does not make sense to me to destroy these Families (Packs), especially one important member of the pack, as most cases show that trophy hunters are after the adults, the alpha animals. I also follow the data year by year, even in person in September, October, November visits, the quota is hardly ever stops at the limit of 2. Many times it is over taken by 3 animals. This number actually totally can destroy a pack. 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. (2019 comment by Senator Phillips to Montana Senate re: SB 185) So the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's Northern Range helps determine the number of wolves hunted outside the park in 313 and 316. In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2011) Talking Points for Commissioner Email 2 In 2018, they counted 39 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2018) While the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%. Please consider these facts before you make your final decision Thank you for kind consideration of this matter. With all Respect and Best Regards, Krisztina Gayler Krisztina Gayler Colorado Representative at National Wolfwatcher Coalition Crew Member of The 06 Legacy Ranching Out-reach, Livestock Guardian Dogs Coalition Member at Rocky Mountain Wolf Project Contractor at MoRak Farm & Ranch LLC Mailing: POBox 161. Livermore, Colorado 80536 Cell: 970 372 7402
Krisztina Gayler Livermore, CO

89. **Wolf Season Comment:** Anything that you can do to cut down and eliminate wolf hunting is a step in the right direction!

Hunting District Comment: Same as above statement!

Gail Bell Denver, CO

90. **Wolf Season Comment:** They need to increase wolf Quotas within 125 mile radius of Yellowstone. 327 and the rest of the gravelys is full of wolves and not many elk. 20 grizzlies using the west fork last fall? That ridiculous. Lower cow tags in that area and increased wolf quotas

Hunting District Comment: Get rid of the study areas in Taylor Fork and Porcupine drainages in the gallatin. Allow more wolf quota and decrease cow tags.

John Underwood Ennis, MT

91. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly oppose the lowering of the Wolf quota from 2 to 1 in areas 313 and 316. The fish and game has shortened our hunting season due to the elk numbers in 313 that has been declining since the wolf interduction and limiting the number of wolves being harvested in the elk winter range does not help. When we had a wolf biologist she wanted to up the quota on wolves but mtfwp opted to cave into Yellowstone park and lower the wolf quota. I think all hunters and spotsman would like to see the quotas higher or none at all. The wolves have all of Yellowstone park to roam when they come outside the park it should be like the rest of the state no quota. Thanks for your time.

Hunting District Comment: At the meeting I went to in Livingston there were no proposals mentioned about boundaries being changed I'm not in favor of any changes unless it makes the buffer zone around Yellowstone go away or reduce in size

Ryan counts Emigrant, MT

92. **Hunting District Comment:** I am unable to attend the meeting due to a broken leg but thank you for reading my comments on the proposal to lower the wolf hunt quotas along the Yellowstone's border. I will get right to the point please lower the wolf quota along the borders of Yellowstone. My husband and I have been coming to Yellowstone since 1979 and have been back almost every year since. When the wolves were reintroduced we started coming back more often then once a year, bringing to the area more revenue to Montana and especially to Cooke City and Silver Gate. The chance of seeing these amazing animals in the wild is what keeps us coming. To learn their story by other tourist watching them and the specific packs they call family. Yellowstone is healthier because of them, as wolves will target the elk and deer with chronic wasting disease. Please consider us the ones with camera's and scopes watching them in the wild is truly the coolest thing. Please consider all the revenue we tourist bring to the Montana area. Please consider a zero quota. Thank you for your time.

LYNDA SQUIRE Boise, ID

93. As a naturalist guide based out of Gardiner, MT I support the reduction of the wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 from 2 to 1 and in WMU 316 from 2 to 1.

Bonnie McDonald Gardiner, MT

94. I strongly support the lower wolf quotas proposed by the state of Montana. Intact wolf packs support wolves hunting their preferred prey (e.g., elk). Lower wolf quotas support the survival of intact packs.

Kathryn Schultz Dubois, WY

95. **Wolf Season Comment:** Each year we stay in Gardiner, MT for 3 to 4 weeks as we have since 2005. Each day we search out and using scopes, spot wolf pack and bears daily. I support the lower quota for wolf hunting in 313 and 316. These two areas are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue.

96. **Hunting District Comment:** "• Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less in 313 and 316, in a sensitive area."

Edd Peterson Lakeland, FL

97. **Wolf Season Comment:** Zero hunting seasons

Hunting District Comment: I am from Australia and have been lucky to visit Yellowstone Park .Your wolves are amazing and need to be protected in and out of the park. Animals do not recognize boundaries and the hunting of wolves is a barbaric practice and should be stopped immediately

Justine Schlicht Kuranda/Australia SC

98. **Wolf Season Comment:** I oppose the wolf quota changes in 313 and 316

Hunting District Comment: I oppose changing the district boundaries

Clay Counts Pray, MT

99. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please vote to have the wolf quotas in districts 313 and 316 as low as possible. I have seen and read the reasoned and logical arguments put forth by the Bear Creek Council. The benefits of wolf preservation in these districts for wildlife tourism, local economic contributions, predator-prey research, and the potential of adding to CWD control, far outweigh any benefit from the taking of 2 animals.

Hunting District Comment: No comments.

Rick McAdam Livingston, MT

100. **Wolf Season Comment:** While Montana is indeed a beautiful place with friendly, gracious people I mainly travel from my home in Oklahoma to view the wildlife and especially the wolves. Please preserve and protect your wonderful state by reducing or even eliminating the wolf hunting.

Hunting District Comment: While Montana is indeed a beautiful place with friendly, gracious people I mainly travel from my home in Oklahoma to view the wildlife and especially the wolves. Please preserve and protect your wonderful state by reducing or even eliminating the wolf hunting.

Gordon Bode Bartlesville, OK

101. Wolves need to be managed in numbers that allow game to survive and thrive. As apex predators, wolves need to be managed and eliminated when their numbers exceed a point where they are hurting game populations.

Leslie Johnson Young, AZ

102. **Wolf Season Comment:** Dear Commissioners, I am writing to you to support of lowering the wolf hunt quota to 1. Since the wolf re-introduction 25 years ago, it has been proven that the ecosystem is more in balance and life in Yellowstone is not just surviving, but thriving ! Wolves

are of great importance to a healthy environment. So much talk about environmental issues...the wolves play a valuable role in a healthy environment ! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hunting District Comment: The Wolf Hunting district boundaries greatly impact Yellowstone National Park. Wolves contribute to a thriving ecosystem and a balance to nature. They also bring a healthy economy and awareness to YNP. The wolves attract a large revenue of tourists every year, with hopes of getting to experience a "wolf sighting" in the park. People coming to YNP for vacation and actually get educated on natural resources, wildlife, and how important it really is to take care of the environment. Because of the wolves in YNP, more people from around the world travel to YNP and leave with a new perspective on the environment and being renewed in nature.

Pamela Gullion Upper Marlboro, MD

103. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a visitor to Yellowstone one of my priorities is always to see the wolves. Their presence is one of the reasons a majority of visitors visit the park and is a huge draw for the surrounding areas in Montana, a most beautiful state! In addition to the benefits to park ecosystems the presence of the wolves enhances the local economy through tours, accommodations and meals. I strongly support the proposed changes to the hunting season rules. I live in a state with wolves who have migrated naturally into the region and many of our ranchers and farmers have worked with wolf advocates to arrive at workable solutions to predation. Many of the ranchers go the extra mile to assist. I believe this could work in Montana as well.

Hunting District Comment: I also support changes to the District Boundaries. Wolves don't know when they have left the park areas and should not be shot the minute they step across an imaginary line. Would that they could. As I stated before you live in a magnificent state and I believe you can find a way to enhance the beauty of Montana by giving these most wonderful animals a better break. They live by different rules and don't understand ours. Please give them a bit more room to roam. Thank you

Sue P Minahan DuPont, WA

104. **Wolf Season Comment:** The state of Montana is proposing to lower its wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316. I encourage the state to either accept this proposal or reduce the number to 0.

Hunting District Comment: There is no ranching as I understand it in units 313 and 316. Wolves in this area are often part of packs in Yellowstone. I have been a wolf tourist to Montana in the past and would love to go again. It is the accessibility of wolf viewing that brought me there, staying in Cooke City with family.

Peggy Dawson Drumore, PA

105. **Wolf Season Comment:** Although ideally hunting limits should be brought down to zero, this is the lowest hunting limit yet proposed, and for that reason I support it! I will be visiting Yellowstone this March with my Wildlife Conservation class, and being able to study the

magnificent creatures we have been researching is incredibly important. Hunting creatures that had to be reintroduced to an area because they were previously hunted to death in this area seems illogical and asking for history to repeat itself. Wolves are a crucial part of the ecosystem and should be protected from unnecessary hunting.

Glory Lancaster, PA

106. **Wolf Season Comment:** Reducing wolf quotas to 0 is essential to maintaining homeostasis in the biology of the ecosystem. Data has shown that wolves are a benefit in maintaining ecological balance in fauna and flora.

Hunting District Comment: The wilderness areas adjacent to Yellowstone should be a No Kill Zone for wolves

Linda Heined Williston, FL

107. I thoroughly support the proposal to reduce the wolf quota in the wildlife management areas near the park. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Every other year, I bring my college level Wildlife Conservation class to Gardiner for 8 days to visit the park and see the wolves. In the years since hunting has begun, the wolves have become harder to see. People from around the world value the opportunity to see these wolves. Please do what you can to allow us to have this opportunity.

Sarah Dawson Lancaster, PA

108. Commissioners, Working as a wildlife guide in Yellowstone National Park- the Yellowstone wolves are my livelihood. Wolf watching brings in about 36 million dollars annually, so allowing the wolves of Yellowstone to be hunted is equivalent to allowing million dollars wolves to be taken. I will start by saying, I am not anti-wolf hunting, however, I do believe that hunting districts 313 and 316 should be managed differently. I agree with the proposal of lowering the quota from 2 wolves down to 1. These hunting districts should be left to the wolf biologists for research and dedicated to protecting the wolves to further ecotourism. Thank you for your time.

Taylor Bland Gardiner, MT

109. I agree with the proposal to lower the wolf hunt quota to one for Area 313 and 316. This is a wilderness area not ranch lands. We value seeing and hearing wolves in the Park and spend a lot of money every year coming to see them. Wolves keep elk herds healthy by taking out the weak, old and diseased. There are plenty of other areas in Montana where hunters can kill wolves. This area is special and should be managed differently than other areas. Thank you.

Carrie Peterson Lakeland, FL

110. **Wolf Season Comment:** Hi- I support lowering the wolf kill to 1 animal as proposed. This will decrease the impact on the Yellowstone wolves, which are also a public resource that provides economic benefit. Recognizing that livestock depredation needs controlling too, this proposal helps to balance public use of the resources.

Hunting District Comment: No comment

DEBORAH CORNETT Lacey, WA

111. Hello, I am in favor of reducing the number of wolves allowed to be harvested from two to one in wolf units 313 and 316 for the 2020-2021 season, and hopefully down to zero for the foreseeable future. I see no benefit to any harvest in these two mostly wild areas, compared to the enormous harm it could, and has caused to the very significant Yellowstone wolf packs that may stray over the park boundaries. We love coming to Gardiner, Montana to see the Yellowstone wolves in the Fall for 7-10 days. And have done this for many years. We did notice that one or two packs were broken up and virtually disappeared from Yellowstone one year. It was NOT a good year at all for viewing the wolves that year. My wife and friends and I all decided that if we continued to hear about the death of wolves due to hunting in the immediate areas outside the park, that it would not be worth the trip to attempt to view the packs that remained. Especially if the deaths resulted in pack destruction. Over the years we have met many people from other states and countries while viewing the Yellowstone wolves. They are world renowned! Thank you for my opportunity to comment.

Kevin McLaughlin Colorado Springs, CO

112. **Wolf Season Comment:** Save the wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Save the wolves.

Margaret Durham Peterborough, NH

113. **Wolf Season Comment:** I appreciate the reduction for Wolf take from 2 to 1 in 313 and 316, however, I strongly prefer that Wolf take in 313 and 316 be further reduced to Zero. Both my wife and I travel to Yellowstone at least every year to see wildlife. We have been very interested in the Wolf packs and the re-entry into Yellowstone. We are planning a winter trip to spend time looking for Wolves. We are 60 years old and just love Yellowstone for its wildlife and want to protect it.

Hunting District Comment: We are not well versed in the boundaries but we want Yellowstone Wolves protected to the largest extent. I prefer No Wolf (or Bear) hunting anywhere near Yellowstone Park

Gary & Lynn Clifford Spring, TX

114. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would like to see the current restrictions on wolf hunting remain. The success of the current wolf program in Yellowstone in keeping balance in nature is nothing short of amazing. The perk for all surrounding areas is the dollars provided by visitors from the USA and world-wide. My most recent trip included visitors from the Netherlands, Germany and England. I was one of three Americans in our group. The world is enthused and watching. Thanks.

Hunting District Comment: I would like to see the current restrictions on wolf hunting boundaries remain for the same reason noted above. The success of the current wolf program in Yellowstone in keeping balance in nature is nothing short of amazing. The perk for all surrounding areas is the dollars provided by visitors from the USA and world-wide. My most recent trip included visitors from the Netherlands, Germany and England. I was one of three

Americans. The world has for years been envious of our national park system and the progressive research conducted within its boundaries. The current system is working as it stands. I understand the long arm of the government (in most cases a nuisance), but in this instance I believe the current balance is working.

C'Anne Cook Melbourne Beach, FL

115. I enthusiastically commend the Montana board of commissioners for their insightful vote to minimize wolf hunting in units 313 and 316 and its consequent recognition of the significance of Yellowstone National Park's wolf population. The long-term economic, ecological and scientific value of wolves surviving in these sensitive zones far exceeds any fleeting worth they have as quarry, especially since numerous opportunities to harvest them currently exist in other areas of the state. Like several thousand other wildlife enthusiasts around the country and the globe, I had the inestimable pleasure of fulfilling my dream of visiting Gardiner and observing Yellowstone's wolves in their natural habitat. The experience not only provided me with an adventure that I will cherish for the rest of my days but also provided thousands of dollars of revenue for the town's guides, hotels, restaurants and retailers. If the park's wolf population remains robust, I intend to return with my family next winter to share with them the wonder of witnessing for themselves the iconic wolves that represent the greatest gem of the Treasure State's unsurpassed natural legacy. Montana is still, in fact, the Last Best Place and the resolve and foresight of dutiful public servants like you ensures the continued livelihood of both wolves and Montanans.

Michael Dahlman Middleton, WI

116. I applaud your reduction of wolf quotas in areas adjacent to Yellowstone. It should be zero, but a reduction is welcome. As you may know, ecotourism and wolf watching supports the regional economy in Montana, some \$35-70 million annually.

Jim Miller Denver, CO

117. Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed wolf hunt for 2020-2021. I am a resident of Gardiner, Montana and own a property a quarter mile from the park boundary. The proposed changes to wolf harvest in 313 and 316 directly affects me and my community. I was very disappointed that a public meeting was not held in Gardiner. It seems to me that you ought to take into consideration the thoughts and concerns of the people who will be most affected by your changes. I own a small tour company. My clients come with the desire to see both wolves and bears - always, so I believe that the wolf packs of northern Yellowstone are highly valued and require special protection. I don't like having to tell the story of how a wolf from a pack that we are observing inside the park was killed in the hunt and then explain how it has adversely affected pack dynamics. Please be very conservative with setting wolf harvest near the border of the park and so adopt the proposal by the commission to lower the quota to one wolf in each unit, 313 and 316. In December of 2012, a number of wolves that constituted the leadership of the Lamar Canyon pack, which normally reside in the Lamar Valley, a world-renowned destination for wildlife watching, were killed in a hunt. The incident drew local and international condemnation and

even calls for boycotting the tourism industry. At the same time, the loss of these key individuals triggered a series of events that led to further wolf mortality, and ultimately to poor wolf sightings in the park. The final result was a down-turn in the area's wildlife watching industry. Please don't let this happen again! Wolves are essential to our local economy and to Montana's tourism industry. Wildlife watching tourism is now the top year round economic driver in the Yellowstone region. Wolves provide both ecological benefit to their environment, and aesthetic benefit to people who chose to live in our area for these benefits. I am a researcher at Montana State University and I have seen how studies of park wolves have provided some of the world's most valued research on many topics, not least of which is predator-prey dynamics. These studies require great effort and investment by wildlife professionals and should be valued for producing answers to questions continually invoked in management debates. Protecting this effort, through protecting the study area packs and their subjects from harvest, promises to reveal insight to further conservation efforts not just in our region, but around the world. I can't overstate the importance of this issue! I prefer that there is no wolf harvest along the northern border of Yellowstone Park -at all! Killing wolves that generally reside in northern Yellowstone but will occasionally wander beyond the border makes no sense whatsoever! There are plenty of wolves to hunt in the rest of Montana and there is no livestock in 316, a wilderness area, and very little livestock in 313, the Gardiner Basin, so depredation has not been a persistent issue. I would like to see the quotas in each of these districts reduced to the greatest extent possible (zero!) The wolves of northern Yellowstone are unique and should not be managed like wolves in the rest of the state! Please set the quotas in 313 and 316 as low as possible with ZERO being the best choice! Thank you.

Barbara Ulrich Gardiner, MT

118. **Wolf Season Comment:** I was hoping to have a no hunt buffer zone for all animals and areas that surround the park but I see that that's not happening decreasing the number allowed to be killed is a good start. I go to Yellowstone and stay in Silvergate, animals that live in the park have no idea when they step over the boundaries sadly it seems they are the ones the hunters choose to kill pro because they are easy targets use to people around.

Hunting District Comment: Please make a safe boundary for Yellowstone animals they don't know when they pass over the invisible line.

Connie Doherty Windsor, CA

119. Please follow through with the proposal to lower the Wolf Hunt quotas from 2 to 1 in areas #313 and #316 on the Yellowstone Northern boundary. We come out every fall with the specific reason of "Wolf Watching" and enjoy doing this so much. We are captivated by these wild and beautiful packs and stay in Gardiner, Mt. while we visit the park. We would hate it if these packs are decimated by hunters and we can no longer visit your beautiful state. Thank-you for your consideration! Sandra McLaughlin

Sandra McLaughlin Colorado Springs, CO

120. **Wolf Season Comment:** I applaud lowering the wolf hunting quota around Yellowstone National Park in hunting units 313 and 316, which comprise wildlands especially and not

ranchlands. Yellowstone wolf packs, which have been a world-recognized source of new information on wolf biology, can wander beyond park borders and be killed. When alpha wolves in particular are killed, but also other pack members, this can perturb pack dynamics and research data and even lead to endangering more of the pack. In addition, many gateway communities depend on revenues year round from wolf-watchers. There are abundant hunting opportunities elsewhere in Montana, and official recognition of the importance of the Yellowstone wolves by the state is an important message to all Montana residents.

Hunting District Comment: Please consider extending these protections by lowering wolf hunting quotas in districts that are mostly public lands in general. Science is showing that wolves prefer their natural prey, elk and deer. Wolves should be recognized as a control agent for CWD because they target the sick and the young. Data from MT indicate that where you have ecologically functional wolf populations, these areas correspond to lower incidences of CWD in elk and deer. Avoid at all costs what is happening in Colorado, where the incidence of CWD is increasing, and our wildlife managers (CPW) are not able to control it.

Diana Tomback Denver, CO

121. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please limit the wolf quota in districts 316 and 313 to zero wolves harvested. This will protect the communities surrounding the park from national and international backlash.

Hunting District Comment: Being a full-time resident of Cooke City, Montana, I have experienced first hand how the hunting of Yellowstone-known wolves has divided the community and affected tourism. I believe wolves need to be hunted in Montana; however, not near the YNP boundaries. The wolves that are known within Yellowstone need special protection, as the hunting of them undermines the towns surrounding the park. Please add a buffer zone around the northern park boundary to protect these wolves from hunting, which will in turn protect the livelihoods of the residents that live in Cooke and the community cohesion.

Lara Belice Cooke City, MT

122. **Wolf Season Comment:** United States citizens, such as myself have worked tirelessly over the decades to protect wildlife. Once again the safety of wolves are threatened. Please reduce the trophy hunting quota in the Montana wolf management units bordering Yellowstone. Trophy hunting is a barbaric practice that the United States should have outlawed decades ago. It is a disgusting reflection on American citizens that we are still fighting this battle in 2020.

Hunting District Comment: As wolves in the wild are once again under attack, I feel it is necessary to express my opinion that a true buffer zone is imperative around the Yellowstone park. It is heartbreaking that people like myself call, email and write to United States agencies and lawmakers for the protection of wild and domestic animals, and there is some jerk always around the corner trying to undo all the protections we have fought so diligently to accomplish. Please protect these wolves which are an iconic part of our American heritage.

Mary Ann Marcello Fallbrook, CA

123. **Wolf Season Comment:** Yes I support.

Hunting District Comment: I support.

Kent Abernethy Frisco, CO

124. Please give the wolves from Yellowstone more room to survive. Their numbers have plummeted and hover around 60 to date. If the wolf takes are lowered surrounding the park boundaries, we may have a chance for sustainability. There are no signs that warn a Yellowstone wolf that he has wandered from a safe haven. Once gray wolves numbered in the millions and were abundant from US coast to coast. A top predator, wolves will do much more for natural balance and biodiversity than hunting permits can accomplish. Let them LIVE, please.

Rose Pray Dillon, CO

125. First of all, I would like to thank the Commissioners for proposing lower wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's border. In this wilderness area, wolves are especially valuable to Montana for the benefit to tourism and for research. Wolf watching is important to the MT economy in general and especially to the economies of the towns bordering Yellowstone. My husband and I visit Yellowstone twice a year, for approximately three weeks each visit. We are in Yellowstone specifically to watch wolves. We spend thousands of dollars in Montana to do so, money which would not be spent if not for the wolves. We are just two among many who contribute to the economy of MT in this way. I urge you to follow through on your proposal to lower the quotas. Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Maureen Beals Pine City, NY

126. Please reduce the wolf harvest quota to ZERO in the two management areas bordering Yellowstone National Park. Ideally, a no hunting buffer zone is needed surrounding the entire Park to ensure wolf sightings which bring substantial revenue to Yellowstone.

Cindy Hergenraeder Billings, MT

127. **Wolf Season Comment:** To Legislature of the State of Montana, I am in favor of lowering the limit on wolf hunting in Sections 313 and 316 of the Montana wilderness. The wolf is necessary for numerous reasons, including maintaining an appropriate ecosystem that benefits all animals and vegetation. Depletion of the wolf packs will put the wilderness in jeopardy because the number of other animals will grow unchecked which will, in turn, alter the plant life and related mini-ecosystems in the wilderness. Depletion of vegetation results in less food for animals, who then will starve and make matters even worse for the wilderness. Again, wolves are critical to our wilderness. Please save them by reducing the hunting level to one (1) wolf per season.

Hunting District Comment: Please increase the boundaries that allow wolves to roam free and provide a vital role in the maintaining of a wonderful environment and ecosystem.

James W. Rider Monrovia, CA

128. **Wolf Season Comment:** The only reason I visit Montana is to view live wolves in their natural habitat. I urge you to reduce to the absolute minimum the number of these wonderful animals that are allowed to be killed as sport. Thank you, Richard Matzick , Belle Isle, FL

Hunting District Comment: I humbly urge you to maximize to the fullest extent the areas in which wolves are protected and are not allowed to be killed. Especially protect them in all lands that abut Yellowstone Park. Thank You

Richard Matzick Belle Isle, FL

129. **Wolf Season Comment:** Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners, I am writing to you to let you know that my husband and i have retired early to be able to wolf watch for many years into the future. We have booked an AirBnB in Gardiner in April for our extended family for a week and will be going with Yellowstone Wolf Trackers to view these essential keystone predators in the wild. I was reading that you have wolf hunting season for six months of the year? We have lost so m much of our wild life and public lands and it is tragic to us that want our Country to be wild and wonderful and we are looking for property in Gardiner to have a second home in. If wolves are hunted there six months of a year we certainly won't feel comfortable bringing our children and grandchildren there. We have studied wolves for 30 years and understand that there is a negative unwarranted stigma on them . Please consider the fact that you will have way more tourist revenue from Americans watching wolves in the wild than those that want to slaughter them. Rhonda Dern RN MSN .

Hunting District Comment: We also read that the Commissioners voted to lower the quota from 2 to one in areas 313 and 316. It is hard for me to understand how you wouldn't want to protect these majestic creatures in areas so close to Yellowstone. Please give them a chance and do not allow any wolves killed this close to Yellowstone where so many of us vacation and come to observe wolves. Sincerely, Rhonda Dern

Rhonda Dern Evergreen, CO

130. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support lowering the wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316. A lower quota will keep the packs from being decimated. It will also help ecotourism, a growing part of the regional economy.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border internationally renowned is detrimental. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is not an issue.

Patricia Morton Los Angeles, CA

131. I am strongly in favor of lowering the quota on wolves in the proposed districts. These are wild lands, not ranches, so no domestic animals are at risk here. Plus, in the past, the killing of wolves in the districts has often led to the decimation of packs in the park. Don't forget, as well, the numbers of people who come to this area to see wolves. This is the wolves native land, there should be a 0 quota here...no hunting. Thank you.

Cyndi Matzick belle Isle, FL

132. **Wolf Season Comment:** While my husband and I are not residents living near Yellowstone but are from Virginia we have twice travelled there in 2013 and 2018 and plan to return this year or next only to see the Yellowstone wolves and any in the areas surrounding Yellowstone. We

watch every documentaries and broadcast like 60 Minutes on the Wolves and follow what is happening with them online. We are a couple of the many who support your economy, your wildlife tourism and your businesses. and We want to see the wolf quota reduced. It is heart breaking to consider that wolves wondering out the park would become targets. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch land. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecologist and tourism.

Hunting District Comment: Please reduce the wolf quota. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. This scientific research I support through contributions. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state.

Bonnie Jones Richmond, VA

133. First of all can't imagine anyone wanting to shoot a wolf. After all work that has been done to successfully reintroduce the wolves to Yellowstone and the positive impact it has on the whole ecosystem I fully support the limit should be reduced, hopefully to 0 but by one is a start. The whole issue is don't mess with Mother Nature!

Edna McDonell Mill Valley, CA

134. **Wolf Season Comment:** I approve of the proposed wolf hunting changes from killing two wolves to one. Don't really like the killing of any wolves, but understand that the farmers surrounding the park are suffering herd and flock losses and there has to be compromise. Having said this, my husband and I make every attempt to visit Yellowstone at least ever 18-24 months specifically to view the animals. We will be making our 11th visit this Fall. We have had family come from England to do a wolf watching guided trip (our second time for this), and are disheartened to learn that not only have there been 300 wolf deaths, but also that it has decimated the wolf packs.

Hunting District Comment: Definitely protect the wolves as much as you can with the boundaries.

Priscilla Johnson Cumming, GA

135. **Wolf Season Comment:** I agree with this initiative

Hunting District Comment: I agree with this initiative

Deb Hendricks Oregon House, CA

136. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please go with the lowest possible wolf quota (one) for the 2020-2021 season. Wolves are critical to the health of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, benefiting most other species, especially riparian vegetation and songbirds.

Hunting District Comment: Please allow wolf hunting of one animal only far outside the Yellowstone National Park, never in the immediate vicinity nor within the park.

Janet McCleary, WA

137. I do not support lowering the quota for wolves in WMU 313 and 316. I live over in this area and have seen the impacts from the wolf re-introduction since 1996 and believe that this is definitely the wrong way to go for Montana. Thank you.

Matthew Klumpp Emigrant, MT

138. **Wolf Season Comment:** I spent the money to go to Yellowstone, and I was overwhelmed by the number of international tourists. Everyone was caught up in wildlife jams. You know why? Because they're there to see the bears wolves elk etc. the more rare the more sought after. With a large group of people I watched a pack of wolves through a scope. People come from far and wide to see these wolves and it's ridiculous to kill them. They keep the elk population healthy by killing the diseased elk, they bring in tourism money to the area, and the spot where the hunting could happen they are not a threat to livestock. One thing that disturbed me with the extreme tourism of Yellowstone is that many of these people had never in their lives SEEN a bear before. There is just so little wilderness left in this overpopulated over developed world. Yellowstone is a little gem of a pocket where the world is actually wild. It's only because of protections and regulations that all the animals aren't hunted out of existence there too.

Hunting District Comment: In these boundaries wolves do not threaten any livestock, and they improve the health of the elk herds by taking the diseased elk. Please allow wolves to thrive in these areas as well. Wolves are a big part of the tourism to the area, they're one of the most sought after animals to see. My visit to Yellowstone was very moving because it showed me that by comparison, the world isn't wild anymore, and this little speck of the earth is what it was like before humans messed it up. It makes me very sad for what we have lost. You drive across the us and all you see is corn fields for days and fences upon fences. The Wild West is gone. Housing has sprawled out everywhere. Cities span for hours of driving. This little corner of the wild is precious. Please let it be a tribute to what once was by protecting as many wolves as you can.

Sarah Dennion Bangor, ME

139. **Wolf Season Comment:** I will admit I am a wolf watcher. I travel to YNP around 10 times a year, almost a monthly basis, even in the winter when it totals 1,000 miles round trip. I spend a lot of money in places like Gardiner and Cooke city. Since these two units are designated wild, there will be little effect on livestock but it may have a huge impact on keeping packs together. Montana is a big state, plenty of other areas to kill wolves. Protecting Park packs should be a priority. Also, CWD is in Montana. Wolves could limit the spread of this disease which, if left unchecked, will decimate the deer and elk herds on the state. Should use everything at your disposal to fight this disease.

Hunting District Comment: Please refer to my answer above. Park wolves packs need t be kept intact. Hunters invariably shoot the alphas. Leaving packs scattered and unsupervised by the older and wiser wolves. You end up with a bunch of juveniles scattered across the country

eating and hunting easy targets, namely domesticated animals. Hunting of collard wolves should be against the law also.

BRUCE DRAPER BURLEY, ID

140. I am thankful for the proposed lowering of wolf quotas. Buffer zones and wild areas where no hunting is allowed is essential for the survival of wolves and other wildlife. Tourists don't want to go to their favorite national parks thinking there is butchery going on behind the scenes or in some cases out in the open (like the bison). It absolutely ruins the park experience. I understand the areas proposed aren't in heavy livestock areas so makes sense to leave the wolves alone. I'd like to see a wolf one day in the wild.

Cynthia Weitzel Overton, NE

141. **Wolf Season Comment:** Non native wolf reintroduction has had enough negative impact on our once coveted elk herd. Agriculture, outfitting and the hospitality industry Have suffered losses for years, so now that we have struck a somewhat of healthy ratio/balance let's not return to the nightmare we as sportsman, ranchers, waitresses etc. lived during the early 2000's in the paradise, Madison and surrounding areas. Any decrease in wolf harvest will have direct impact. I know many backcountry hunters that may spend 40+ days a winter on public and private lands pursuing wolves. They have a lot of encounters but the wolves are savy and hard to kill. Find a herd of elk you typically find wolves. Trusting lazy biologists on wolf numbers that can't get out of their truck and off the county road is laughable. Go stay with a guide in the backcountry in a canvas tent for a month or ask a rancher to take a drive would be a good start. Our past biologists sat in-front of hundreds at a open elk/wolf forum and told us she did her bull elk count in March lol seriously? When we're dealing with that type of mentality it's hard. Do people want a healthy ecosystem with a balance of human existence? Most of the folks I have spoken to or debate this issue with that are opposed to the harvest of wolves don't even use or spend time around these animals or in their environment. Since the reintroduction, we have no Yellowstone Grey wolf anymore. Anyone that spent time in the ABT backcountry pre reintroduction seen tracks, heard Howls or actually seen our native wolves. I think instead of putting all those resources into a non native animal, the feds should have found some handy trappers and packers and trapped a breeding pair of our natives. If I put a bull trout or salmon in Yellowstone lake they would flip out, its not native, "save the cutthroat". That's fine, but those same folks that would be outraged , they were fine with eradicating our native animal for a quick fix. Every person involved should be in breach of the endangered species act they so adamantly support. No to decreased wolf harvest. They will Continue to prosper in the back county where they belong and most people won't go.

Hunting District Comment: No decrease in any district

Jesse Livingston, MT

142. I am strongly in support of lowering the wolf hunt quotas in units 313 and 316. These lands abut Yellowstone National Park, are wild, and livestock depredation is a negligent issue there. Wolves play an integral role in balancing wildlife populations--save our wolves.

Chris Pfaff Evergreen, CO

143. We support the lower wolf quota.

Mike Altieri Heber City, UT

144. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support your lower wolf hunt quotas for hunt units 313 and 316. This is an acceptable move to allow some hunting, but decrease the disruption to the packs that spend most of their time in Yellowstone.

Hunting District Comment: No comment

Martha Siebe Anchorage, AK

145. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am a photographer who visits Yellowstone and Montana every couple of years. I come because of the wildlife and wolves. I camp and spend money and dearly love the area. Wolves are a critical component of the ecosystem. Less killing of wolves benefits the park and surrounding areas. Healthier ecosystems benefits us all.

Hunting District Comment: Less killing of wolves in adjacent states to Yellowstone benefits the western ecosystem. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone is a triumph for the country and should be protected. The park boundary should be safe for the wolves that wonder out.

Please protect this glorious ecosystem!

Paula Bard Morrison, CO

146. I oppose to decreasing the wolf quota in HDs 313 & 316. The wolves have decimated elk numbers in around the Park. The animal rights folks keep saying wolf watching is a 35 million dollar economy to the area. I seriously question their numbers. Prior to the introduction of the wolves the late season Gardiner hunts drew thousands of people to the area, filling the hotels and restaurants keep them open into February, now these business are closed after the General Season, losing a lot of money.

Paul Ellis Bozeman, MT

147. "I support the lowering of the wolf hunting quota from 2 to 1. Hunting units 313 and 316 are wild areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. I visit Yellowstone National Park at least once a year to see wolves. These wolves have special value both ecologically and monetarily with regard to tourism value. Please, lower the hunting quota around Yellowstone National Park and keep these wolf packs as intact family units."

Delia G Malone Redstone, CO

148. Please DO lower Wolf hunt quotas in Montana along Yellowstone's northern boundary

Suzel Bertrand Los Angeles, CA

149. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly support no hunting of wolves but am in favor of reduced quota at the very least.

Hunting District Comment: I am in support of no or reduced quotas within and expanded into all designated boundaries. Let's let nature thrive.

Eddie Engstrom Redstone, CO

150. **Wolf Season Comment:** Thank you for considering lowering the quota on wolves in areas 313 and 316. As these areas border Yellowstone National Park, and are essentially wild areas, it's appropriate to limit wolf hunting further. These wolves are extremely well-known, and are a draw to the park. To hunt them as they wander just across a border that is known only to man, not to wolves, is unfair to that population, which is used to the protection of the park. As one who values wildlife, and likes to visit MT and Yellowstone, I strongly support your proposal to limit the take to 1 wolf in these areas. Thank you for your far-sightedness on this issue.

Hunting District Comment: The only changes I'm aware of are the ones I've addressed above.

Linda J Hodges Colorado Springs, CO

151. **Wolf Season Comment:** I do not agree with reducing the quota of wolves in 313 and 316. Wolves have always ranged and expanded their area. That is how they got to the rest of our state and many other states. The legislature looked at expanding the no harvest area outside of the park and realized that it is not necessary or warranted. Wolves have expanded far beyond the agreed upon numbers. We worry about objective numbers of elk and will embrace anything to get their numbers down to what landowners are willing to tolerate. But wolves are being managed based on emotions and trying to appease anti-hunters, anti-trappers and wolf lovers and having nothing to do with actual biological science. We should look closely at our neighbors in Idaho who are recognizing a real emergency and eliminate the season until numbers are within reason. If we must have license tags, include 5 or 10 with your conservation license. Let's at least stop tying the hands of the hunters and trappers who are trying to get wolf levels into reason.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no areas with reduced quota. The wolves don't know boundaries and will infest any area that has game left for them to kill.

Larry D Rattray Proctor, MT

152. Commissioners: I ask that you establish a quota of one wolf in Units 313 and 316, north of Yellowstone Park. Many of the wolves harvested in these units are wolves that are often viewed by the public within the Park. Each wolf killed gives one hunter a pelt but denies hundreds if not thousand of wildlife observers from enjoying that animal. It makes no sense to kill wolves in these two units when hunters have so many other opportunities with the state. Thanks for considering my comments.

Don Vidrine Helena, MT

153. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please set the wolf hunting quota to zero in these sensitive areas. My son & I will soon visit on a wolf watching expedition. That won't be possible in future if the wolves are hunted.

Hunting District Comment: Eco tourism, ecology, and scientific research will suffer if wolves are allowed to be hunted in or near Yellowstone. These are wild areas, not subject to, ranching concerns.

Kris segneri Carlock, L

154. Please consider reducing the quota of wolves to ZERO in two management areas bordering Yellowstone National Park. In 2018 the wolf population in YNP was 80, at the end of 2019 it fell to 60. This is an alarming decrease. Wolf watching generates millions of dollars in Mt tourism. Fewer wolves means fewer sightings which will translate into fewer tourist dollars. Wolf biologists agree that wolves are the best natural defense against CWD. Trophy hunters have already killed over 200 wolves this hunting season in Mt. Why should trophy hunters have more rights than wolf watchers? Thank you, Janice Hergenraeder

Janice Hergenraeder Laurel, MT

155. **Hunting District Comment:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Montana's wolf hunt quotas. I have been visiting Yellowstone National Park at least twice each year since 1998. I enjoy viewing all wildlife, but the chance to see wolves was the reason I first came to Yellowstone, and I support your proposal to lower the wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's border in units 313 and 316. There are plenty of other areas in Montana where hunters can take wolves. I sponsored the collars on two wolves, one of which was killed in Montana's first wolf hunt in 2009 on the northern border of the park. Travel to Yellowstone from Texas is not cheap; my husband and I spend approximately \$3500 each trip. There are other places we could go, but we choose Yellowstone because of the wolves and other wildlife and are happy to contribute to the economy of the communities surrounding it.

Christine Baleshta Austin, TX

156. The proposed change to reduce allowed wolf kills in areas adjacent to Yellowstone should be approved. In my case, one of the major reasons we come to Montana is to spend time watching and studying the wolves. We have been to the park 10 times in the last 15 years and are booked to come again in the fall of 2020. As one of the guides we hired several years ago said, "There is no other place in the entire world where you can observe wolves in their natural habitat." This opportunity is treasure for the states of Montana and Wyoming and local community tourism and and shoul be supported and protected for all future generations.

Gregg Johnson Cumming, GA

157. As a former Montanan for 18 years and a wildlife advocate: the wolf quota in units 313 & 316 should be *reduced to one* in lieu of reducing it to zero...wolves should not be hunted along the park boundary, period. They have a right to safely access taxpayer-supported public land and they are a valuable asset for worldwide tourism. Stop fracturing YNP packs and pack stability with hunting deaths! HOWEVER, reducing it to one is better than keeping it at two, so I DO FAVOR this reduction.

Kathleen Stachowski Mancos, CO

158. **Wolf Season Comment:** These areas 313 & 316 are one area where the YNP wolves get murdered if they step out of the park... Montana lowering limit down to one animal is amazing progress.. My extended family and my husband and I have traveled to Montana specifically to see wolves. We spent a very cold January watching a wolf pack hunt bison, utterly amazing. Why would Montana ever want people to kill these wolves for fun, disrupting the life of the pack and doing no good at all to anyone. Please reduce the limit in these areas to zero. One is really too

many. And don't allow any taking of wolves wearing collars. You already pay for any domestic animals taken by wolves. These wolves do nothing to affect the livelihood of the ranchers or farmers in the area.

Hunting District Comment: We really wish that Montana would stop killing wolves everywhere. Damage from wolves is a fiction. But the two areas north of Yellowstone are especially important.

JoAnn Hackos *Evergreen, CO*

159. Please lower the quota to one.

Mary *Los Angeles, CA*

160. **Wolf Season Comment:** I feel strongly the quota for hunting wolves on the northern border of Yellowstone National Park should be zero, because there is no way wolves can know borders, and disrupting the pack can be detrimental to the purpose of reintroducing the wolves for the eco-balance in the area.

Hunting District Comment: I think it would be best for citizens to be educated in simply reporting wolf sightings to the park officials instead of shooting them.

Jennifer Hackel *Cambridge, MA*

161. **Wolf Season Comment:** We now have hard evidence about the effect of hunting on wolf packs that have members killed outside the park. It is devastating to those family groups. In addition it may also cause a wolf or wolves to begin preying in domestic animals to survive because they lack the cohesion to hunt their wild prey.

Hunting District Comment: Boundaries should be expanded. Hunting to the edge of the park for any species honestly much less predators is poor policy. Human beings are part of the very thing you manage. They are not able to be responsible. And the animals of the park are gems that are not for their killing entertainment. What is the benefit other than state revenues and sanctioned killing for no purpose.

Karen Brown *Auburn, CA*

162. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please support the lower wolf hunt quotas. Danny and I have been blessed to spend a week inside Yellowstone and have seen how devastating an overpopulation of ruminants, especially elk, have on erosion, stream pollution and health of tree stands.

Hunting District Comment: Trapping with leg traps is inherently cruel and lacks sportsmanship the hunters love to tout. Please support the removal of hunting access to the 313 and 316 areas. Thank you.

Carey F Head *Ponca City, OK*

163. **Wolf Season Comment:** We visit Yellowstone twice every year to view wolves. It would be a shame to ruin all the great advances achieved by reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone.

Hunting District Comment: Let us non-hunters pay for any damages caused by wolves outside the park, we would gladly pay increased fees to reduce the hunting quota to zero. Just ask us?

Joe Fryk *Tacoma, WA*

164. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the quota.

Hunting District Comment: Don't hunt around YELLOWSTONE.

Kathleen Grubbs Billings, MT

165. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please set these sensitive areas at ONE wolf per season. This would be areas 313 and 316! These are wild lands! Very wild too rugged for livestock areas. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. I have been in the park when wolves have left and not returned due to the hunt close to the park boundary, turning the pack in chaos, loosing pack leadership & for us loosing valuable data. They had to leave for fire drove they and their prey out of the park. The wolves don't see a boundary, they see survival. I also feel hunting COLLARED wolves should not be allowed...a huge financial loss and scientific loss wasted! Thank you for hearing me!

Hunting District Comment: This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area, 313 & 316. Thank you!

Karel Buckley MANCOS, CO

166. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the wolves. Please do whatever you can to keep them safe and alive. They are helping the environment and there is evidence of it.

Hunting District Comment: Extend the boundaries outside of the park so that there is a buffer zone if they leave the park.

carol adams hood river, OR

167. **Wolf Season Comment:** Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

John Elsner Cedarburg, WI

168. **Hunting District Comment:** There's a need to lower the wolf hunting quota in units 313 and 316. These are wild areas with no livestock at risk. Wolves here target elk and deer weakened by disease - a clear benefit to all. Wolves in these northern areas attract eco tourists and are a huge benefit to ecology and scientific research. There are many opportunities for wolf hunters in Montana so please lower the quota in the sensitive areas of 313 and 316

Pam Rogerson *Edinburgh, ME*

169. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am in favor of lowering wolf hunting quotas and would prefer to see it at zero.

Hunting District Comment: I am in favor of protecting the wolf population in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Diane Couvreur *FORT COLLINS, CO*

170. **Wolf Season Comment:** I make frequent visits to Yellowstone National Park, mainly to watch wolves in and around the Park. I spend quite a bit of money each trip, and if I weren't able to see wolves I would not visit. I urge you to reduce the number of wolves around the Yellowstone borders to be reduced to zero. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Dave Hornoiff *East Greenwich, RI*

171. I believe the hunting quota for wolves in districts 313 and 316 should be reduced to zero. The wolves in these districts are not a threat to agricultural or ranching interests as they border the northern part of the park. This area of the park has a large number of visitors year round which support the businesses in both Gardiner and Cooke City. I am neither anti-gun or anti-hunting and enjoy all the great outdoor activities your state has to offer (in fact I'll be in the area in February). Thanks, John G

John goodyear *Cody, WY*

172. **Wolf Season Comment:** Need to kill a lot more wolves, before they kill everything in the country. Canada killed all there wolves for a reason.

Hunting District Comment: No boundaries should be open season and kill as many as you want.

Charles fields *Roy, MT*

173. **Wolf Season Comment:** I fully support the proposal to change the quota the agency had suggested from two to one wolf for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park. As a frequent visitor to the area spotting a wolf is such a big deal. Everyone visiting always wants to see the wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Opportunities for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Alexx koskella Park city, UT

174. Lower the quota to allow the wolf a chance to expand its range northward

Benjamin Brinker Gardiner, NY

175. **Wolf Season Comment:** It is my hope that you vote to decrease the wolf hunt quota to ZERO! We need our environment to be balanced, and wolves help with that. We've enjoyed traveling in Montana for years and hope to continue to enjoy the wonderful flora and fauna of the State. Decreasing the hunt quota will help to ensure our environment!

Hunting District Comment: I hope that you limit the wolf hunting district as greatly as possible so that the environment can balance itself without our interference

Kathleen Larkin Birmingham, MI

176. I support lowering the wolf hunting quota to one wolf in units 313 and 316. On repeated visits to the Greater Yellowstone area, my family and friends have been captivated and thrilled to enjoy amazing observations of wolves in the wild. We believe that monetary compensation for livestock losses due to wolf predation is a fair mitigation strategy and that sound ecosystem science should guide all wolf management decisions.

Wade Diehl Wood River Junction, RI

177. I support the 2020-21 Wolf Hunting Season changes to one wolf each in hunting districts 313 and 316.

Jim Belli Bozeman, MT

178. Based on these areas the quota needs to be lowered preferably to zero. This is absolutely necessary to place the ecosystem out of balance.

Richard Romersa Billings, MT

179. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should be zero limit.

Hunting District Comment: Extend the buffer zone please

Jackie Christieson Arlington, VA

180. **Wolf Season Comment:** Zero

Hunting District Comment: Please let's protect the wolves and stop hunting them. They need to be protected in the Endangered Species Act, which they are.

Annica Bennman Holmström Spokane, WA

181. Please reduce the number of permits. I regularly travel to Yellowstone from the UK to see your wildlife.

Julia Knight Rochester MT

182. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please make the quota fit the purpose of creating sustainable wolf populations in your state.

Hunting District Comment: Please create the best boundaries to create a sustainable diverse population of this incredible species. I am in the UK! But have background of hunting/ecotourism in Africa. Seeing wolves in the wild is on my bucket list.

Sarah Greeff Seaview, MT

183. **Wolf Season Comment:** Montana is right to be dropping the quotas

Hunting District Comment: People need to be better informed and not hunt these beautiful animals

Mandy Terry Cowbridge, CO

184. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a tourist I would prefer to see zero wolf hunting. In this modern day, there is no need for it.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries of protection should increase.

Wilton Farrelly Belfast, MT

185. **Wolf Season Comment:** I live in the San Diego area. I drive to Yellowstone twice a year, for a total of 4 weeks in Wyoming and Montana per year. I spend a lot of California money in Gardiner, MT in that month. In January '19 I almost cancelled my trip because the shooting of wolf 926 removed half of the reason I was going. Ultimately, I chose to go anyway, as I have the 13 trips I've made since 2012, but the more local wolves are killed, the less likely I am to come. I love Yellowstone, but the wolves are a big part of the attraction. Anything that results in less park wolves shot, increases the likelihood of this Californian spending his tourist dollars in Montana.

Hunting District Comment: I live in the San Diego area. I drive to Yellowstone twice a year, for a total of 4 weeks in Wyoming and Montana per year. I spend a lot of California money in Gardiner, MT in that month. In January '19 I almost cancelled my trip because the shooting of wolf 926 removed half of the reason I was going. Ultimately, I chose to go anyway, as I have the 13 trips I've made since 2012, but the more local wolves are killed, the less likely I am to come. I love Yellowstone, but the wolves are a big part of the attraction. Anything that results in less park wolves shot, increases the likelihood of this Californian spending his tourist dollars in Montana.

James Legg La Mesa, CA

186. Hunt units 313 and 316 are wild areas, so livestock predation is not a concern. When wolves hunt deer and elk, they generally remove weakened and less fit individuals, thereby strengthening the health of herds. Hunting and trapping around Yellowstone's borders is poor policy, as many of the targeted wolves come from packs inside the park. Park wolves attract many visitors, who provide important economic support to local economies. Finally, Montana has a long hunt season throughout the state, which allows for way too many wolves to be killed outside units 313 and 316.

Tracey Neff Fishersville, VA

187. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not lower but raise the limit .thin the packs down to min.

Hunting District Comment: Open the boundaries and open more districts where pack numbers are too high.

Owen Ennis, MT

188. **Wolf Season Comment:** I travel to Yellowstone every year for one particular reason: the wolves. Yellowstone and the surrounding areas are somewhat sacred to me. They need to be as protected as possible at this time.

Hunting Season Comment: I travel to Yellowstone every year for one particular reason: the wolves. Yellowstone and the surrounding areas are somewhat sacred to me. They need to be as protected as possible at this time.

Lisa Acevedo Sumner, WA

189. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf hunting is barbaric and unnecessary. The quota should be zero. With CWD spreading, we need predators to naturally control the spread of this disease. There are wolf hunts in areas that have essentially no livestock.

Hunting District Comment: The senseless hunting close to Park boundaries is also unnecessary and needs to stop. There needs to be a no hunt zone around YNP.

Koby Kasten Red Lodge, MT

190. By lowering the quotas to one wolf in each of two districts on the edge of YNP it would appear there is no biological basis for the change. Two wolves would not affect, numbers, densities, locations of of packs, influence size of home ranges , or likely not target depreadations. Soit seems that continued hunting is to appease some segment of the hunting or ranching public. If the state has definitive data showing they want to remove animals in a certain area, then consider a raffle/special draw that would raise funds to further wolf research.

David renwald Caron, WV

191. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Dan Struble Livingston, MT

192. Too many wolves, need to cut down on the population!!!

Bo Herak Silver Star, MT

193. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the wolf hunt quota from 2 to 1 wolf along Yellowstone's northern boundary (in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: As a wildlife supporter and national park advocate, I strongly urge you to please redistrict the boundaries to stay far away from Yellowstone's northern boundary. We enjoy viewing the wolves during the winter in the park and remain hopeful that the wolves thrive, as they are vitally important to our ecosystem. Thank you for your consideration.

Margie Mohr Lewisville, TX

194. **Hunting District Comment:** Reducing the number of wolves killed from 2 to 1 in districts 313 and 316 will be helpful in maintaining the ecosystem and stability in YNP and surrounding area. Actually it would be most desirable to have no wolves killed in those areas as the killing of wolves from those packs can be very detrimental to the survival of a pack. Tourism has also boomed since the introduction of wolves which is very profitable for Montana.

Paula Bartel Denver, CO

195. I have visited Yellowstone to see the wolves and I must say it was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had, and I am saving to come again. If the proposed lowering of wolf quotas for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park can be agreed on I consider this will be a positive step in helping to keep these extraordinary animals alive. Since it's reintroduction to Yellowstone wolves have provided invaluable benefits. Please help protect them. Sincerely Diana Tilley-Winyard I do not live in Montana and only selected it as there was no Australian alternative. Sydney. Australia. d.tilwin176@bigpond.com

Diana Tilley-Winyard Sydney, MT

196. **Wolf Season Comment:** Increase the limit if anything

Hunting District Comment: Increase the number of wolves to be killed, this was a lousy idea.

Terry Williams Kingman, AZ

197. **Wolf Season Comment:** We own a home and rent it on AirBnB. Our clients are wildlife lovers who come to Silver Gate to have a glimpse of the wolves inside the Park. The shooting and killing of one of the well known wolves in Silver Gate two years ago upset many of our clients, many have vowed not to return. I applaud the proposed changes to lower the quota of wolf harvest in the areas adjacent to the Park

Hunting District Comment: We would support lowering the quota from 2 to 1 in the areas adjacent to the Park during the 2020-21 season.

Loi Nguyen Silver Gate, MT

198. I support lowering the wolf quota from 2 to 1 wolf in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316.

Michael Engel Waterville, PA

199. **Wolf Season Comment:** Quickly

Hunting District Comment: Yes

Will Rogan Tallulah, LA

200. The only change needed to the quotas is an increase. If that can't happen they need to stay the same or ranches and wildlife will pay the price.

Ryan Wapiti, WY

201. I support lowering wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1. Along Yellowstone's border is an area that is highly regarded for wildlife viewing, particularly wolves. I am a regular visitor and support the local economy with my trips to view wolves in the wild in the northern boundary areas.

Jeri Edwards Arroyo Grande, CA

202. **Wolf Season Comment:** Changes are necessary as wolf numbers increase and state management is an important feature of balancing tourism, outdoor recreation and agriculture.

Hunting District Comment: Changes will allow wolf harvests in border areas and thus offset habituation of wolves living just inside the Park boundary..

greg capito Juneau, AK

203. Please lower the hunting quota for wolves in Montana. As a visitor to your state, seeing the wolves in Yellowstone Park was a highlight.

Eileen Phillips Orange, CA

204. The wolves residing Yellowstone help keep the ecosystem healthy, they should not have their lives endangered because they cross a man made boundary. Please keep the quota for this area as low as possible. I traveled to Yellowstone a couple of years ago and was drawn in large part by the wolves.

Elizabeth Stack Charlotte, NC

205. **Wolf Season Comment:** After a successful partial recovery of wolves in the three states, extreme conservative groups have done all they can to decimate wolf populations there. Hunting needs to be restricted to allow wolves to stabilize without taking out mature collared wolves that only destroy the pack integrity, making it difficult for younger wolves in the pack to find food. This promotes preying on livestock which I think the wolf haters really want. Their position is political and hateful, not educated or fair.

Hunting District Comment: There should be very limited or no hunting in wolf boundaries near Yellowstone or recovery areas.

Thomas Gootz Estes Park, CO

206. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the Montana wolf hunt season along the Yellowstone park boundary.

Hunting District Comment: Please reduce the montana wolf hunt quota in hunt areas 313 and 316 along the Yellowstone park boundary.

Meredith Taylor DUBOIS, WY

207. **Wolf Season Comment:** I'd rather no wolves were killed, however, I support lowering the quota.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting near Yellowstone should be banned altogether as wolves don't understand the concept of park boundaries. Please protect these magnificent and highly intelligent creatures.

Alice Horowitz Glen Ellen, CA

208. **Wolf Season Comment:** I love the State of Montana and have been a frequent visitor in the past. Much of my purpose in coming there is to visit Yellowstone and catch a glimpse of the wildlife that lives there. As a photography hobbyist I relish the idea of possibly getting to photograph wolves in their natural habitat. I am highly in favor of decreasing the hunting quota of these magnificent animals. They play such an important role in the ecosystem as well as being a tourist draw which strengthens the local economy.

Hunting District Comment: Areas adjacent to Yellowstone should have lower hunting quotas as the wolves know no boundaries and can range outside the park. Areas 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota so it seems there would be little effect on that by lowering the quota in these specific areas. Respect the wildlife!

Patricia J Miller Ann Arbor, MI

209. **Wolf Season Comment:** We are so blessed to have wolves back in Yellowstone. If the quota can't be zero, then I support the closest number to that , 1 or 2.

Hunting District Comment: I think wolf hunting should be eliminated. The greater the area that can be preserved for their habitat the better.

Helen Skelly Lyme, NH

210. I am an advocate for reduced hunting quotas for habituated Montana wolves. I applaud your decision to limit the quota to one wolf in the wild landscapes of zones 311 and 316. Their value is in tourism and, as these wolves live mostly in protected and wild landscape, depression in this area is a none-issue.

Sheila Newenham Wayne, IL

211. Please lower to 1 although it should be 0.

Tracey Marshall Kamas, UT

212. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolves of yellow stone serve as a tourist attraction. They provide a natural deterrent to over population of grazing animals. They are majestic. They deserve

protection of the highest level. They are self regulating and do not over populate. They are the ancestral source of mans best friend. We owe it to them. They owe us nothing they helped man kind survive to be what it is today..good or bad, but here we are.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries should not change to the detriment of the wolves. They need to be allowed to roam in their woodland just as the American Indians once roamed.

Gabi Kerr Belfast, AL

213. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly support the lowest possible quota for wolf hunting that can be achieved. There is so much we are learning from the study of the packs in & around Yellowstone ... this will benefit many ecosystems and animal populations. I urge the adoption of a zero quota ... or as low as possible. 1 kill can decimate a whole pack, as we have learned.

Hunting District Comment: The areas surrounding Yellowstone NP should also be protected, as we know the packs naturally roam outside of the physical NP boundaries. Killing in these areas is as detrimental as killing within the NP. Please protect these animals in this geographical area.

Michael Harris Seattle, WA

214. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the quota to zero. Wolves need protection.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf ecotourism is very beneficial to Montana's economy. Please do not ruin this industry and harm these magnificent animals.

Georgette Furey Hobe Sound, FL

215. **Wolf Season Comment:** Thank you for lowering the quota. I would prefer a 0 quota within 50 miles of all YNP boundaries.

Hunting District Comment: Have 0 quota in all districts around YNP.

Dan Styles Billings, MT

216. This is absurd and will do absolutely nothing for conservation. When will you learn that the earth doesn't belong to you?

Erin Pittsburgh, PA

217. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves have been shown to target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens , preventing/slowing its spread. Their behavior exhibits how wolves benefit the balance of the ecosystem.

Hunting District Comment: This is a sensitive area of Montana along Yellowstone's border. Hunters could hunt wolves in areas where there is no quota.

Susan Fishman Edwards, CO

218. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower quotas

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate.

Melinda Louise Tempe, AZ

219. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please consider the long term effects to our environment... history does repeat itselfwolves are critical to the eco system.

Hunting District Comment: Wolves are critical to the eco system , we have done enough damage, we needs these wolves alive.

Retta McElvogue Media, PA

220. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the quota and shorten the season as much as possible. We need our wolves to protect our elk, deer, and moose from disease.

Hunting District Comment: Please develop a large buffer zones to account for the large range of the wolves. No buffer zone is unfair to the wolves and the high number of visitors who travel literally days to see them. Thank you

Michael Smith Big Sky, MT

221. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lowering the quotas is good idea.

Hunting District Comment: Hunting in districts directly outside of Yellowstone Park should be stopped. Not ranch lands and those wolves are part of Yellowstone Packs bringing the land back into balance and sustainability.

Sally Mathewson Colorado Springs, CO

222. I fully support decreasing the quotas in hunting districts adjacent to national parks, specifically 313 and 316. I would like zero but 1 in each is a positive step. The wolves in those areas are typically essentially Park wolves that have little or no negative impacts on domestic livestock yet are vital to the ecosystem, ecotourism and research. I also feel that, in general, they are used to humans being a non-threat and question fair chase aspects of hunting them on the boundary.

Jamie F Walton Bozeman, MT

223. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am writing in support of the proposed hunting season changes. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Kris Olsson Ann Arbor, MI

224. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am very pleased to hear that the state of Montana is strongly considering lowering the the hunting quota of wolves to one in each of the regions around the park. Tourism in the park brings over \$35 million from the last report I heard into the state of Montana and much of that is driven by seeing the wildlife especially the wolves. My husband and I take several trips a year to the Yellowstone area specifically to photograph the wildlife and to

see the wolves. We make it a point to stay at local establishments, frequent local restaurants and businesses. My sister and her family also travel to Yellowstone several times a week year for the same reason. The uproar over the unfortunate killing of Wolf 926F last winter had a backlash on businesses in the Cook city Silvergate area. Many of those businesses support us to come to watch the wildlife. Walt many of us would like to see the quote is at zero this is a positive step in the right direction. We do understand the balance that has to be struck here between the people who love wolves and the people who are not happy they have been re-introduced all these years ago. Because of the amount of tourism those animals bring in to the surrounding gateway communities into the park and because of the high emotion when something does happen I believe that Montana is making the right decision. It is certainly good news and for those of us who have been campaigning for this we are grateful.

Hunting District Comment: Because of the amount of tourism those animals bring in to the surrounding gateway communities into the park and because of the high emotion when something does happen I believe that Montana is making the right decision. It is certainly good news and for those of us who have been campaigning for this we are grateful.

Catherine Woodfield New Castle, DE

225. **Wolf Season Comment:** The change to a hunt quota of 1 is moving in the right direction. Zero would be better.

Hunting District Comment: Do not expand the boundaries. Let nature take charge.

Ellis Grossnickle Harrisburg, PA

226. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should be no wolf hunting season. The population should be allowed to self-regulate, with only problem individuals that pose a threat to humans considered for harvesting.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no wolf hunting season. The population should be allowed to self-regulate, with only problem individuals that pose a threat to humans considered for harvesting.

Morgan Gray College station, TX

227. **Wolf Season Comment:** While reducing the quota of wolf hunting permits from 2 to 1 wolf makes a lot of sense, I would hope to see the quotas for these sections reduced to zero. These sections harbor wolves in packs that have been researched for many years and even the culling of 1 individual wolf can skew the data that the researchers work very hard to get. Especially, if the wolf taken has a tracking collar, which has happened in the past. It makes sense to leave these researched packs off limits to hunting.

Hunting District Comment: "• 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue."

Frank Baele Idyllwild, CA

228. **Wolf Season Comment:** This is insane. I travel to MT and WY specifically to see wolves. Not to see dead wolves. There should be a larger perimeter around Yellowstone. People come from all over the world to see these wolves.

Hunting District Comment: You're a bunch of redneck douchebags. More people want the wolves alive than dead.

Ann Paradise Valley, AZ

229. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the wolf hunting quota along the norther Yellowstone boundary from 2 to 1. As tourists who frequent Yellowstone NP for wolf watching, we would like to see wolf hunting along the park prohibited because it has adverse affects on wolf packs who live mostly inside the park. Thank you.

Hunting District Comment: Areas 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch land. Livestock depredation is essentially a non-issue. Thank you.

Alan Peterson Kent, IA

230. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am opposed to all wolf hunting.

Hunting District Comment: Again I am opposed to all wolf hunting. To cattlemen, your livestock are major contributors to global warming. To hunters, prizing a wolf carcass and hanging the head over your mantle is barbaric.

Donna Johnson Beloit, WI

231. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please decrease the wolf quotas for hunting in the sensitive areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. These wolf packs have greatly enhanced the landscape of one of this country's greatest treasures. I am planning a trip to Montana just to see these wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Makes a lot of common sense to try and protect these valuable resources.

Carol Brock Coral Gables, FL

232. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the proposed 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting Season changes. While it is difficult for me to understand why anyone would want to kill such beautiful animals, I understand others feel differently. Tourism and the economic benefits of wildlife, especially wolves is very important in these districts. I have made 7 trips to Yellowstone to see the wolves ranging from 1--2 months, spending far more than I should in YNP and the surrounding communities, supporting their economies. Wolves help keep the ecosystem healthy, by weeding out the ill and infirm animals, and making the rest more alert and keeping them on the move, benefiting other species such as beavers who use some of the same vegetation the elk consume. The districts of 313 and 316 are adjacent to the park where much of the wildlife viewing and research occurs. Who knows, if we do not interfere with the research conducted, perhaps it will lead to insights that will make the wolves a less devisive issue in the future.

Hunting District Comment: Of course, for the sake of tourism and research, I would like to see districts around YNP protected from wolf hunting. I realize this would require a change in the law. Something to hope for in the future.

Barbara Louis New York, NY

233. The popularity of wolves in Yellowstone supports small businesses that depend on ecotourism for their livelihood. Ecotourism supports the regional economy in Montana, some \$35-70

million annually. Please drop the quota on Yellowstone wolves to a zero limit to protect jobs and the economy. of Montana.

Jennifer Abbott *Manhattan, MT*

234. **Wolf Season Comment:** As someone who has previously visited Yellowstone and who is going to return this year, I am horrified that there should be any killing of wolves. The excitement of seeing and hearing these animals cannot be minimised and should be protected at all costs.

Hunting District Comment: Since I am not a local resident I feel I cannot fairly comment.

Neil Meldrum *Aberdeen, Scotland TX*

235. Please eliminate all wolf hunting.

Judith Simmons *Salt Springs, FL*

236. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am an active hunter no longer pursuing big game but still very much a supporter of all types of hunting. Nonetheless, I am very much in support of dropping the season wolf take from two to one in the two areas mentioned, north of the YNP I assume. I don't believe it should be lowered to zero, because that jeopardizes a major part of the EPA. My wife and I have made many trips to YNP, mostly for the opportunity to see wolves (& bears, etc.) in the Lamar Valley during the winter and early spring months. We plan on visiting again this May. Our daughter and family live in Bozeman, MT and look forward to trips to YNP as well. The introduction of wolves back in the western US has been a wonderful experience for most people and a huge improvement in our recognition of the right to live in areas where they have historically been, I believe. I do feel sympathy for the livestock industry as the presence of large predators means an increase in the cost to raise sheep and cattle, but they have to adjust to the new circumstances as best as they can.

Hunting District Comment: 100% support of lowered limit from two to one wolves per season in the affected areas.

Ken Castleton *Walnut Creek, CA*

237. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters

and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Lynn Clark Seeley Lake, MT

238. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am strongly in favor of reducing the limit of wolves taken in the area just north of Yellowstone Park to one from two. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. I, certainly, spend more time and money in Montana because of their presence and I know many other people... both local and not do so as well. Thank you.

Hunting District Comment: I am strongly in favor of reducing the limit of wolves taken in the area just north of Yellowstone Park to one from two. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. I, certainly, spend more time and money in Montana because of their presence and I know many other people... both local and not do so as well. Thank you.

Pam Goodyear Cody, WY

239. Please reduce the wolf quota in WMU 313 and 316 to one wolf. My family makes their living off of tourism on wolves, and they are very important to our economy. The wolves around Gardiner, MT are a unique situation and shouldn't be treated like wolves in the rest of the state. Thank you.

Connor Thurston Gardiner, MT

240. **Hunting District Comment:** I think the boundary along Yellowstone park should be a no hunting zone, until this change takes place none of my money will be spent in Montana or there products.

Jerry Mullins Marysville, WA

241. **Wolf Season Comment:** 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. My husband and another couple just traveled to Yellowstone to see these amazing creatures. They draw people from all over the world. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread.

Hunting District Comment: Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area. This seems very reasonable

jane golub Huntington, NY

242. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone was very successful for wolves and the ecosystem. Just because a wolf wanders a couple miles outside the park is no reason to kill them. Please limit the proposed wolf hunts to the lowest possible number!

Susan Mittuch Aurora, CO

243. **Wolf Season Comment:** I encourage you to please lower the Wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2-1 in each of the two hunting unit, #313 and #316. The wolves from the border are loved and are mourned when they are lost to hunting and trapping. People come from all over the world to see the wolves and helps the Yellowstone economy. Hunting for wolves is a long 6 month season and we are asking for only 2 less in this sensitive area. Wolves in this area most often those living in the park.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Hunting for wolves is a long 6 month season. Please also consider a buffer zone around the park. These wolves have no understanding of boundaries and should not be killed the minute they step out of the park. Also, evidence suggests that wolves target elk and deer with CWD, which will help prevent the spread. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Norma Roberts Bozeman, MT

244. **Wolf Season Comment:** There is no good reason to hunt wolves. Lowering the quota is a start but the final number should really be zero.

Hunting District Comment: There is no good reason to hunt wolves. We need to preserve our natural habitats and their inhabitants.

Melissa Buss Sound Beach, NY

245. **Wolf Season Comment:** I absolutely am for the lower quota on wolves killed near Yellowstone boundaries. While I would favor 0, I support the proposal of 1 for units along Yellowstone boundaries.

Hunting District Comment: I am opposed to any wolf kills along any Yellowstone boundaries period.

Sam Graves Baton Rouge, LA

246. **Wolf Season Comment:** Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread.

thousands of miles of roads untouched by your average recreationists. Removing the 150 foot setbacks in areas only ever visited by lion hunters “who most are now wolf trappers” and other trappers who are after all of the fur bearing species. This will only increase the odds of a better wolf harvest. We all agree that the high recreation areas need setback to protect the public and their pets but not every inch of every road. It would be simple to organize a committee of FWP, Forest Service, Sportsmen, and Recreationists to designate areas of high public use and areas that would not require setbacks. It’s time to try something else, Region 1 needs your help. Hunting over bait has been proven to be an effective management tool for harvesting wolves in Alaska, Canada, Idaho, and Wyoming, FWP doesn’t want carcasses being dumped due to the CWD threat. Mandate No dumping of deer, elk, and moose heads and spinal columns. Everything else will work. Lengthening hunting and trapping season once again will increase the odds for a better wolf harvest. FWP biologists fear lengthening trapping season will increase the availability of grizzlies being trapped. Maybe we should try it once and see what happens, and then we will have positive proof of the outcome. We strongly oppose this proposal. Proposal: Replace the current quota and male sub quota with separate male and female special license for each district, HD’s 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, and 130. Every study ever conducted on large cats from the jungles of Africa to the Rocky Mountains all have the same conclusion. If you target and remove the dominate males from the population your end result is a population explosion. The dominate males control the lion population in their territory, young males that wonder into their territory will be driven off or killed, the kittens that are not his offspring will be killed. Dominate males will not go hungry in their territory due to lion over population. Dominate male lions do more to control lion populations than anything we can do. As an example, if five male licenses are given to hunters in a hunting district and they are allowed all season without any other hunter competition, they will hold out and harvest the largest male they can find and we will never again have any large dominate males. Our deer, elk, and moose populations in Region 1 cannot handle a lion population explosion. Competition among hunters creates a sense of urgency. After weeks of hunting and watching the quota numbers increase, a hunters standards start to decrease. It is the same as the last week of general rifle season. “I’m not shooting any buck less than a six point”, three days left “any nice four point rides home in my Ford”, last day “Where is that spike I saw two weeks ago”. The competition creates a diverse age harvest, and a healthy lion population. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL We strongly oppose shoulder hunts. Land owners that do not allow public hunting on their property during general season have created their own problem and they should suffer the consequences. Don’t get me started on the sliding rule trespass fee. We should never manage wildlife according to wealthy landowner’s agendas, and if I do my math right all these problems started about the time of the great wolf reintroduction. Three elk tags per person, Really! These people must really like to eat elk meat, they will need to eat elk meat 2 to 3 times per day in order to utilize all of the harvested meat, and that is only one person. If 2 or 3 members of the same family were to harvest the same amount. Wow what a waste! Deer and elk have migrated to private property for protection from the wolves, lions, and bears. If we are not going to protect what we have left by managing the predators, then I guess we might as well slaughter them all and get it over with. Most of Regions 1 and 2 have witnessed a rapid decline in our game populations and it’s tragic. Rather than allow 3 elk tags per person, let’s try transplanting elk back into the wilderness, the South Fork, North Fork,

Middle Fork of the Flathead. Where the FWP aerial survey only found 200 head of elk. Sportsmen would stand in line to help but only after the adoption of a sound predator management plan. Rather than listing wolves as a species in need of management, list them as predators and let us go to work. Perhaps we should start working on a new novel "Montana's Wildlife Legacy, Decimation to Restoration and BACK". Thank You for the opportunity to voice our concern! Roddy Hill Secretary NWA Board of Directors Montana Fur Harvesters"

Roddy Hill Columbia Falls, MT

248. I am in favor of reducing the wolf hunting quotas along the northern boundary of the park for the coming hunt. The wolves have become, and are, an integral part of the ecosystem in the park and need to be protected.

Alice Matson Wyalusing, PA

249. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the quotas!! When we visit the Yellowstone area, it is to see the wolves. The hunt impacts not only my personal experience but the Montana travel and hospitality industry.

Hunting District Comment: Please change the boundaries!! Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Amy Mueller Dousman, WI

250. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the proposed change in limit from 2 to 1; in addition, I'd love to see something enacted which protects the alpha wolves in each pack

Hunting District Comment: Is it possible to enact something which protects wolves in the park boundaries?

Joe A Blythe Memphis, TN

251. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolf population is way too high and needs year around decline.

Hunting District Comment: Shouldn't have a boundary

Jamie Milender Evanston, WY

252. I am a frequent visitor to the Yellowstone area. The wolves are a popular tourist draw and an important part of natural animal control. I'd like the hunting to be zero, but 1 is a start. Additional killings due to illegal hunting and human impact already contribute to lowering wolf numbers.

Bette Burt Farmington, MI

253. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the quota!!

Hunting District Comment: Protect the wolves moving near Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Joy Griffith Bozeman, MT

254. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the quota

Hunting District Comment: No comment

Jill B Levittown, PA

255. I fully support reducing the wolf quota to one in units 313 and 316 to safeguard wolves in Yellowstone National Park. I would prefer the quota be 0.

Rickie van Berkum Huson, MT

256. **Wolf Season Comment:** My husband and I have been coming to YNP since 1999. We have enjoyed watching the wolves for many years. It is very upsetting when one is killed by hunters illegally or legally. Our YNP family of friends are also wolf/'bear watchers. No more hunting around areas close to Park.

Hunting District Comment: Wolves can't read boundary signs. They should not be hunted period but not around Park areas.

Teresa Bastin Fountaintown, IN

257. **Wolf Season Comment:** The quota should be zero. People travel from all around the world to see Yellowstone's wolves. They are also the state's best defense against chronic wasting disease. Increasing wolf hunting is a lose-lose— decreased tourism, making all hunters look bad, and letting disease expand its prevalence in the ungulates. Aren't you better than Wyoming?

Hunting District Comment: There should be a buffer zone of several miles around the park. Keeping packs intact is best for them and us. They have a very large home range. Do the right thing.

Catherine Smith Big Sky, MT

258. I strongly support the proposed lower wolf quotas for the Yellowstone border. I am not a Montana resident but I have come many times to the park (spending quite a lot of \$ in MT while there), one of the main goals being to see wolves. Hunters have many other opportunities to kill wolves. But "accessible", functioning wolf packs are rare and they provide many ecological benefits (as Yellowstone is proving). The research opportunity is irreplaceable.

Christine Hempleman Olympia, WA

259. I strongly support the 2020-2021 Wolf Proposed Hunting Season Changes to lower the wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's northern boundary from 2 to 1 wolf in each of two hunt units, 313 and 316. I have had a couple of opportunities to see the wolf in the wild. Most of them were in Yellowstone National Park, but there was one encounter that has stayed in my memory. It was early at dawn, and I was driving through one of the smaller roads in Yellowstone National Park. I saw a black shape near the road and I slowed down. It was a wolf, but it was not behaving like one. It was not trying to run away from my car, but watching me with suspicious eyes. I waited in my car, and finally s/he started walking again. Then I realized the truth. This wolf was badly hurt – one of its legs was injured from what looked like a bullet wound. Its eyes pleaded for help. I called the local park authorities and they said they were aware of this wolf, who was

shot but survived the last wolf hunting season. This was shocking – I did not know that wolf hunting was even allowed before this experience. I watched the poor animal hobble away, knowing that s/he will probably die. I could not save one of God’s creatures that day, and it bothers me still. Is that the future that we want for our wildlife? A majestic animal reduced to limping invalid. Because that is what the current rules are doing. Since 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, livestock depredation is a moot point. Any wolves killed in these areas are likely from packs within the national park, and it decimates the pack life for these wolves. This rule change should also have a negligible effect on wolf hunting and trapping in the state of Montana, which has a long season (6 months) and no quota in almost all of the remaining areas of the state. Reducing the quota to only 2 less, in the sensitive area near the park, should be a no-brainer. I travel all the way from my native NV to these far off places to see and learn about wolves. One of my goals is to be able to see wolves in my state - Nevada, Utah and Colorado have vast tracts of wolf habitat rich in natural prey that remain empty of wolves. Until that happens, I will keep coming back to Yellowstone to see and learn more about the wolves. I hope I get to see more wolves in Yellowstone, and not ones deliberately injured by hunters looking for a trophy.

Siddhartha Pathak Reno, NV

260. I am a resident of Colorado and sincerely appreciate the opportunity to offer comments regarding wildlife management in the fine state of Montana. For the past 25 years my wife and I have visited Montana one or more times a year, specifically to observe wolves in Yellowstone NP. Thus, my keen interest in the state’s management of this valuable resource. I wholeheartedly agree and strongly support the position of the Commissioners on reducing the harvest quota of wolves in Units 313 and 316 from two to one. Thank you in advance for taking my comments under consideration during your deliberations.

Joseph R. Cullom Greeley, CO

261. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Don’t hunt.

Hunting District Comment: Don’t hunt.

Jeff Bastin Fountaintown, IN

262. ***Hunting District Comment:*** I support lowering the quota next to YNP to 1 wolf

Robin Irwin Billings, MT

263. Lower the number of wolves killed in the hunting season to enable the predatory line of nature to work.

Susan Huff Atwood, KS

264. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Having been married to a wildlife biologist studying the wolves of Yellowstone, I entreat you to lower the quota on wolf hunting. I have traveled out west numerous times - and brought lots of out-of-state dollars to the region - SPECIFICALLY to see wolves. Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone’s border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Evidence suggests (and I have seen first-hand the evidence) wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state - a number of which Montana should NOT be proud, BTW. This proposal would have minimal impact on that.

Shauna A Turnbull Andover, NH

265. **Wolf Season Comment:** As someone who visits Montana and the Yellowstone region every year, I'd see lowering the wolf kill quota from 2 to 1 as a positive step. A primary objective in coming to Montana for a visit is to see the wildlife not readily seen elsewhere in the lower 48 - chiefly wolves and grizzly bears.

Hunting District Comment: I'd be in favor of protecting the boundary areas adjacent to the park from any hunting if possible. Thank you for allowing input.

Robert Mullen Vernon, CT

266. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am in support of the insulting amount of a lower quota for wolf hunting and trapping. I am a tourist who visits Yellowstone as well as other areas of Montana. I photograph wildlife and choose to spend dollars where wildlife is respected and supported. This is not limited to Yellowstone but at least some thought to pretend the tourist dollar is of value is stretched. Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: The reduction plan of 2 although truly an insult is better than alternative. The districts in particular 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. A camera shoots repetitively and keeps the tourist coming back as opposed to one time shot from a gun, if you want to attract tourism and keep visitors coming back rethinking wolf culling, trapping and hunting is necessary. I have altered my traveling to include Montana but do avoid Wyoming and Idaho the best of the worst. But can start taking my tourist dollars elsewhere as necessary.

Scott Caruso Lakewood, CO

267. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please protect all wolves adjacent to Yellowstone! Stop hunting protected wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Make all adjacent districts to Yellowstone OFF LIMITS for wolf hunting!!

Kent King Edmond, OK

268. Changing the quota is no different than a "buffer zone". The wolf population in these districts should not change

Joseph Kiedrowski Billings, MT

269. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please Lower the limits. The benefits of wolves far outweigh the artificial concerns. The special interest hunting groups need to stand down on this one -- in order to do what's right for our environment and long term interests.

Hunting District Comment: It would be beneficial to lessen this for all the above reasons

Eric Lichtenthaler Corbett, OR

270. So heartened to hear of the proposed lower quota ~ We all need to work together to assure the well being of our magnificent wolves who so beautifully balance the eco system to prosper for all creatures ~

Kathleen Kinkela Santa Ross, CA

271. Gardiner: Very disappointing. The quota should be doubled, not halved. Increase wolf tags from 5 to 10, wolf numbers have remained too high in Regions 1 and 2 and increasing tags will allow those who are highly successful to be more successful without having much if any noticeable impact on wolf populations. Lengthen wolf rifle season dates to 8/15-3/31, this will allow more harvest and more opportunity for wolf hunting, Idaho's tightest season date is 8/30-3/31 and some run year round and they aren't being sued. Year round wolf season on private lands. Idaho has year round season dates on private lands and they aren't being sued. Please listen to the landowners and help them out without having to be investigated under SB200 and so they can keep the hide and skull if they'd like. 72 hour trap check will increase the number of trappers and make it much less onerous. Idaho is doing this and isn't being sued.

STEVEN B KAMPS ovando, MT

272. As a tourist who spends thousands of dollars in Montana to visit Yellowstone, to enjoy wolves and wilderness, I'm pleased by the proposal to reduce the wolf quotas in units 313 and 316 to one wolf. That's a step in the right direction! Livestock depredation is not a significant issue in these wild areas (and is best solved with other methods, conducted at the time of the event, not via hunting and trapping). Wolves killed in these units are often "park" wolves, critical to the ecotourism that fills your state coffers as well as scientific research. Montana offers a long wolf season throughout the rest of the state, providing many opportunities to hunters and trappers. Simply reducing that number by 2 wolves--in a sensitive area--is a minor request. Wildlife is held for the public trust. Not simply for hunters and trappers, for all of us. Thank you for acknowledging that.

Jill Shultz Binghamton, NY

273. **Wolf Season Comment:** Evidence suggests wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease and other pathogens, preventing/slowing spread. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no

quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting and trapping along Yellowstone's border where wolves are highly regarded and internationally renowned is inappropriate. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Barrett Stejskal Fort Myers, CT

274. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please by all means possible lower the length of the wolf hunting season and limit the number of wolves killed to one. These beautiful and valued creatures cannot speak for themselves and need our protection.

Hunting District Comment: Also wolves know no boundaries and the boundaries we set are unnatural and blatantly unfair to the wolves. They need and should be allowed to roam outside these man established boundaries without the fear of being killed. This is a no brainer.

Mike Stevens Island Park, ID

275. **Wolf Season Comment:** Montana, in particular Yellowstone and the surrounding area, is a treasure to a great number of people around the world. My family spends over a month there throughout each year. We have seen tourism increase by bounds since the wolves have been reintroduced. More importantly, we have seen the ecological changes that have occurred since the wolves have been re-introduced into the park. It seems such a waste and counterproductive that hunters can destroy this progress at any time. We see the vindictiveness of the hunters targeting well-known wolves that are popular with tourists. This senseless killing costs Montana in ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. Trophy hunting serves no purpose!

Hunting District Comment: This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in sensitive areas 313 and 316. Reducing the quota to ONE in each area is a step in the right direction but ultimately ZERO should be the goal. 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research. The wolves know no boundaries.

Lauri Hauptmann Richland, WA

276. I would prefer the wolf quota to increase, opposed to decrease in the 313 and 316 districts.

Kayla Mershon Billings, MT

277. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lowering the quota is important to economy of areas surrounding Yellowstone. Many come to see the world famous wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Boundaries for animals can't be a simple line in the sand. That makes it easy for hunters to lure the wolves to their death.

Steve Silverman Polk City, FL

278. **Wolf Season Comment:** please leave the wolves alone. too many farmers/ranchers are taking the NIMBY approach just for the opportunity to kill something.

Hunting District Comment: please do not expand the hunting boundaries.

jim lynch warren, PA

279. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the reduction in wolf quotas in areas #316 and #313. I visit Yellowstone often to watch the wolves and have owned property in Bozeman. The wolves in this area are typically Park wolves and there is little cattle grazing in these two districts. Loss of a wolf with a tracking collar to hunters may permanently destabilize a park pack and end scientific data on that pack. Thank you for considering these important ecotourist and scientific aspects of the quota reduction in 316 and 313.

Hunting District Comment: See above, thank you.

Monique Johnson Redondo Beach, CA

280. **Wolf Season Comment:** Stress on all the animal living with these species that have been introduced. Stress on predator and prey health numbers

Hunting District Comment: Idaho -Wyoming -Montana -Utah Washington

John Moscow, ID

281. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the quota.

Hunting District Comment: Narrow the boundaries.

Ed Bradshaw Bloomfield Hills, IL

282. I fully support the reduction of wolf hunt quotas along YNP's northern boundary. It's a proven fact that the return of the wolves to Yellowstone has resulted in a number of benefits: the natural balance to the ecosystem has been returned, benefiting all sorts of wildlife (fish, birds, beavers, foxes, grizzlies, and more), aspens and willows have been allowed to expand due to the more natural balance of elk now in the Park, Cooke City and Gardiner now have another "profit center" in the wolf watching tourists, particular in the dead of winter. Now that chronic wasting disease is marching toward the Park, wolves could be an important ally in the control of this disease. Wolf hunters and trappers enjoy almost ample opportunities to harvest wolves in many other areas of the State, so reducing the quota along the northern border of Yellowstone should not be too much to ask. Frankly, the quota should be reduced to zero, rather than one. These wolves need a buffer to allow them at least some sort of a safe haven north of the Park boundary. Please don't let politics and anti-wolf rhetoric to influence your decision on reducing the quota. It's great to have these animals back. Some background on me: I'm a fourth generation Montanan, avid hunter, angler and outdoorsman, and come from an extended family of ranchers. My wife and I visit Yellowstone at least 4 times a year from Sept. to May, staying in Cooke City or Gardiner each time, benefiting the businesses in these communities. In the dead of winter, the ONLY reason we visit Yellowstone is to view wolves. There are many others just like us. Thank you for listening.

Jack Sauther Bozeman, MT

283. Please decrease the number of wolves allowed to be killed. As you know, these wolves are generally Park wolves and even when they are not, are essential as apex predators and allies in the fight against chronic wasting disease to the state in general, and they are a huge ecotourism draw—worth far more alive than dead.

melinda hirsch Bellevue, WA

284. Yellowstone wolves provide substantial revenue to the state as tourism attractions. The small quota reduction will not impact overall state populations but causes substantial social disruptions to the wolf packs of the area. Since both areas are wild areas not ranch lands cattle depredation should not be an issue.

Joseph Darling New Rochelle, NY

285. I support a 1 wolf limit (and would prefer 0 quota). Sections 313 and 316 are not ranch or private lands and there are many other options for wolf hunting in surrounding lands.

SUZANNE RIVERS NW SPOKANE DOWNRIVER GOLFCOURSE, WA

286. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** As a Biologist with a long time love for Yellowstone and its Wolves I am hoping that this no quota will hold firm. These magnificent creatures are not like any other animal that can lose some members and thrive. They are so much like us and our families when a member dies we grieve and try to move on. With a Wolf Pack if a leader Male or Female is killed the whole pack is in disarray leading to confusion and high stress to the remaining pack members. Observations of Wolf Packs they are a family, and the Alphas are actually the parents of most of the pack. I hope they do consider this delicate and beautiful relationship and help preserve it ...not Destroy it.

Hunting District Comment: Real Simple extend the boundaries of the park to protect our nations Wolves...end of story!

Raymond Hudgens Jupiter, FL

287. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I do not agree with this. We need to stop being biased and become educated. These wolves created balance in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Hunting District Comment: The wolves do not see boundaries. This is horrible to wait for them to leave Yellowstone and kill them for sport. This isn't right or ethical! I graduated in Wildlife biology and have become educated on this subject and other need to also.

Kennedy Denver, CO

288. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Leave them alone

Hunting District Comment: Leave them alone

albert brady Granville, IL

289. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Units 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. 313 in Gardiner and 316 in Silvergate is where all the tourists, biologists, and wolf watchers spend their money to see wolves. 6 months long hunting season is way too long to live with the stress of losing yet another beloved wolf that we study

and know. Please change the quota from 2 to 1 in both these units, or better yet, combine them into 1 unit, and have just 1 kill. Essentially saving 2 (if not combined) or 3 (if combined) of our park wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Since the quota could never be down to 0, we should make it the lowest number possible which is 1 (in both units). Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific value. After 25 years of blood, sweat and tears, It's time to make this change!

Celia Walker Key West, FL

290. **Wolf Season Comment:** It is on my bucket list to see a live wolf in the wild. Please protect them.

Hunting District Comment: I will make a trip from Kansas to see wolves. I will spend several thousand dollars.

Laura Hines Stilwell, KS

291. I strongly encourage the wolf limit to be ONE or even ZERO. We have worked too hard to bring them back from the brink of extinction to allow them to be killed for just crossing boundaries they are not aware exist.

Rachel Taylor Salt Lake City, UT

292. Lowering the number of wolves that can be hunted right out of the part is a good idea, if you have to allowing killing so close to the park.

John DiCicco Springfield, VA

293. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please consider lowering the current wolf quota. Wolves are a keystone species that are vital to the Greater Yellowstone Area. I know you have to consider the practical aspects to the problem, but please remember the good that wolves bring to the environment and the economy. So many people expect to see wolves when they come to Yellowstone now. Hunting disrupts pack structure and leads to depredation on local ranches, aggravating the wolf problem. Be an example to other gateway communities surrounding natural areas and lower the quota.

Hunting District Comment: Yellowstone creates jobs and income for the state of Montana, and a majority of visitors expect to see wolves when they visit. To endorse wolf hunting in areas just outside of the park is illogical and a contradiction to the message that the park presents. Wolf hunters have the rest of Montana, where the wolf population is not an issue that upsets ecotourism, research, and ecological balance. Please consider protecting wolves in areas around the park.

Tricia Lerfald Orange, CA

294. I would like to see 0 wolves harvested in units 313 and 316 but support the effort to lower the quota adjacent to Yellowstone. The wolves in YNP attract many wolf enthusiasts who bring tourism dollars to the area. The wolves in and adjacent to YNP also supply valuable data on the

entire bio system which can be used in other places as well as YYP. It also seems that wolves target elk and deer who are infected with CWD and this alone merits extensive research.

Myra Stachowicz Minocqua, WI

295. If eliminating a wolf hunting quota is not an option, lowering the quota is the next best option. The wolves have done so much to change the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for the better and bring more tourism dollars to the area. Livestock depredation is not nearly the issue that it is made out to be as proven by study after study, especially in the areas directly surrounding the park.

Sarah Armstrong Nashville, IN

296. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Lower the better for all concerned

Hunting District Comment: Limit the areas for hunting access, no hunting of wolves

Arthur Robidoux Wakefield, RI

297. I'm against decreasing wolf quotas in units 313 and 316, the wolf quota needs to be INCREASED in districts 313 and 316. I spend between 30-60 days a year in these two districts and have witnessed the unfortunate impact wolves are having on the Northern Yellowstone elk herd. Please do not hamper our ability to manage this species.

Mike Mershon Billings, MT

298. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** As a frequent visitor to Yellowstone and the surrounding area, one of the highlights for the past twenty years, has been the increased sighting and hearing the calls of the wolves. Much of Montana's residents income is generated in tourism. I know for sure that my fellow tourists do not agree with the wolf hunting practices and a decrease to the hunting limit to one wolf is a step in the right direction.

Hunting District Comment: no comment

Trude Wright Honeoye Falls, NY

299. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** We spend the spring, summer and part of the fall in Gardiner, MT primarily to see the wolves in YNP. We meet visitors from all over the world who come there solely to see wolves. The killing of wolves especially around the parks boundaries can adversely effect existing packs. Can hunting a few wolves outweigh the amount of tourist money and bad publicity it brings in?

Hunting District Comment: Should be a buffer zone around YNP to protect wolves venturing outside the park.

Samuel and Virginia Garland Sioux Falls, SD

300. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** This is a step in the right direction please lower the quotas.

Hunting District Comment: I wish we didn't even have to comment but please pull back the boundaries.

Christian mersch North Sioux city, SD

301. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the changes. Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: •313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue.

Allen Winiski Greenville, SC

302. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would like to see the Wolf season reduced to 1 wolf

Hunting District Comment: I would very much like to see all of the MT. areas around Yellowstone Park closed.

kevin mahoney gardiner, MT

303. **Wolf Season Comment:** I have just returned from a visit to the beautiful state of Montana (my daughter is a resident) where I was lucky enough to view the Wapiti wolf pack in Yellowstone. By lowering the quota in the hunting zones around the park, the packs are able to stay together as a family. As you no doubt know, visitors like myself spend millions of dollars in the bordering communities in order to view wolves and other wildlife in the park. Please lower the wolf hunting quota in the zones around the park as proposed. Thank you for your consideration!-

Hunting District Comment: I would like to eventually see a buffer zone around Yellowstone in which no wolf hunting would take place.

Gayle Heinemann Roscoe, IL

304. We have been on several Wolf treks and killing the wolves will reduce the number of people coming to see them. The packs need to stay strong. Jeannie Mutum Lincoln NE

305. Please consider lowering the quota in district 313 and 316 from to wolves to 1. Ideally 0. The economic value of these wolves alive should be incentive enough. These wolves are epic money makers. As a guide for 4 seasons in yellowstone clients want to see wolves over all other animals consistently Will sherman Bozeman MT On top of the economic incentive and also research incentive there is an issue of morality as well. These wolves wander out of the park with an unnatural understanding of the dangers of humans. I have stepped out of a vehicle in yellowstone only to realize the now deceased white alpha female of the canyon pack was cruising between two vehicles to cross the road less than 20 yards from people. A lack of fear that ended up getting her killed illegally. So please as you make this decision realize the only ground to stand on is bias from the elk hunting industry. Which economically is a drop in the bucket compared to tourism in this immediate area. These wolves have been raised within proximity of humans and to kill them on the boundary of the park only hurts science and the economy.

306. **Wolf Season Comment:** Hello, I am one of the millions of visitors who are drawn to Yellowstone to view the park's wolves and other iconic wildlife. I'm proud to say I've visited the

park 6 times in the last 4 years and am responsible for contributing to the roughly \$35-\$70 million in tourism dollars wolves bring to Montana. It has come to my attention that in December 2019 the commissioners suggested a quota of one wolf (rather than 2) for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park. I am strongly advocating for this reduction. Any wolf taken in the area most likely belongs to a Yellowstone pack, the same packs that are drawing millions of tourists a year to the park. Since this is a wild area and no livestock in this area there's no chance of predation, therefore making killing of any wolf senseless. Also, wolves help control chronic wasting disease, which has spiked in recent years in both deer and elk. Again, I strongly oppose killing wolves in the area bordering the park. There are plenty of other places in Montana to hunt wolves, this should not be one of them. It is my hope that wildlife agencies in Montana will come to the realization that wolves are far more valuable to the state alive, than dead. Thank you.

Hunting District Comment: Hello, I am one of the millions of visitors who are drawn to Yellowstone to view the park's wolves and other iconic wildlife. I'm proud to say I've visited the park 6 times in the last 4 years and am responsible for contributing to the roughly \$35-\$70 million in tourism dollars wolves bring to Montana. It has come to my attention that in December 2019 the commissioners suggested a quota of one wolf (rather than 2) for units 313 and 316 adjacent to the northern boundary of Yellowstone Park. I am strongly advocating for this reduction. Any wolf taken in the area most likely belongs to a Yellowstone pack, the same packs that are drawing millions of tourists a year to the park. Since this is a wild area and no livestock in this area there's no chance of predation, therefore making killing of any wolf senseless. Also, wolves help control chronic wasting disease, which has spiked in recent years in both deer and elk. Again, I strongly oppose killing wolves in the area bordering the park. There are plenty of other places in Montana to hunt wolves, this should not be one of them. It is my hope that wildlife agencies in Montana will come to the realization that wolves are far more valuable to the state alive, than dead. Thank you.

Loretta Stadler Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

NJ

307. **Wolf Season Comment:** I have been a Yellowstone wolf follower since they were first introduced back into Yellowstone Park. Many trips to Montana and Yellowstone were planned solely around the wolves and chances to see them. While lowering the quota to "0" near the Yellowstone Park border would be the most favorable, just lowering it to one kill is better than not lowering it at all.

Hunting District Comment: That Montana allows wolf--or any other kind of wild animal hunting--near the Yellowstone Park borders is the best "canned hunt" we have in the nation. And, it's sponsored and supported by one of our states! I find that despicable and beneath our national sense of responsibility. The animals are born in the Park and while many stay in the Park where they were bred, the occasional wandering animal to outside the Park borders is subjected to dozens (or more) of "hunters" who have planted themselves outside the borders for the easy kill. Yes, any reduction in the number of wolves that are subject to "hunters" near the wolves home range is an improvement over what we have now.

Linda Seaman Winthrop, WA

308. Hunting wolves in areas adjacent to Yellowstone makes no sense whatsoever. Wolves do not follow boundaries established by man. And killing Yellowstone wolves is a crime against nature

Jeff White Alexandria, VA

309. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am writing to encourage you to severely limit wolf hunting. In fact, I support NO wolf hunting at all. Hunting, of course, does not include "problem" wolf where proven depredation can be shown.

Hunting District Comment: There should be NO hunting of wolves. I've visited Montana and Wyoming many times and especially enjoy seeing wolves in Yellowstone National Park.

Ron Good Port Townsend, WA

310. **Wolf Season Comment:** My comments are to reduce quotas to zero to enhance Ecological tourism and the economy of the park

Hunting District Comment: Hunting in surrounding boundaries is known to directly affect wolf pack numbers in the park. Boundaries are transient to these animals and they migrate according to their needs. The quotas should also be zero

Bradley Ditch Cody, WY

311. **Wolf Season Comment:** I come to Yellowstone at least once every year specifically to see wolves. I bring revenue to the area, and while I of course want hunting of wolves banned, I fully support the lowered quota. The wolves in these areas generally live in the park, and since legislators will not create a buffer zone, a lowered hunting quota is another step forward. Wolf watchers bring so much revenue into the Area that it makes economic sense for you to increase the chances for someone to see a wolf, and return again and again to see wolves. Lowered wolf hunting quotas equals increased revenue for the area.

Hunting District Comment: The park needs a buffer zone so the animals who live in the park can safely exit the park. Boundaries can easily be reduced and still allow for someone to hunt a wolf in a legal area if they are bound and determined.

Melissa Dannelet Tacoma, WA

312. **Wolf Season Comment:** There is no sensible reason to allow any hunting of the relatively few wolves that exist in America.

Hunting District Comment: There is no sensible reason to allow the hunting and killing of any of the relatively few wolves in America.

Ric Floyd Sunriver, OR

313. **Wolf Season Comment:** I've visited Yellowstone on a number of occasions. The past 2 were specifically to view and listen to the wolves. I've spent thousands on Yellowstone eco tourism which brought money and employment to states surrounding Yellowstone. Without the continued benefit of these animals I would have no reason for further visits.

Hunting District Comment: There seems to be little to no accountability to those who illegally poach the wolves surrounding Yellowstone. It seems likely to continue and with that in mind why do you see the need for hunting at all in any of these boundaries?

Dennis McLevaine Birmingham, AL

314. **Wolf Season Comment:** I advocate for lower quotas in 313 and 316; I can live with 1 but 0 is better.

Hunting District Comment: No comment as I am not that familiar with boundary situations.

Ron Schuyler Fort Lupton, CO

315. **Wolf Season Comment:** Hunting of Wolves benefits only a minority whilst the tourism interests benefits many and growing

Hunting District Comment: Wolves are natural roamers and should not be killed just because they do not recognise state boundaries.

Michael Sant Cardiff wales, WY

316. **Wolf Season Comment:** Leave the wolves alone! Govt can reimburse ranchers for cattle loses.

Hunting District Comment: No boundaries. Leave wolves alone

Robert Jones Rio Vista, CA

317. **Wolf Season Comment:** Opportunity for wolf hunters and trappers abound in Montana where nearly the entire state has a long season (6 months) and no quota. In 2018, over 300 wolves were killed in the state. This commonsense proposal is asking for only 2 less, in a sensitive area.

Hunting District Comment: 313 and 316 are wild areas, not ranch lands, so livestock depredation is essentially not an issue. Wolves killed in these units are often from packs living mostly in the park where they hold high value for ecology, ecotourism, and scientific research.

Ben Grieff Seattle, WA

318. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would love to see the quota for wolves taken near Yellowstone to be zero, but the proposed 1 is better than 2. I am from Michigan, and when I come to Yellowstone it is to see the wolves. If they disappear, so does my tourist money.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting near the park, to a wolf watcher like myself, seems counter productive. Tourist money helps the area a great deal, so I would think you would want to protect the money makers - the wildlife, namely wolves. The areas bordering the park should be off limits to hunting since the animals don't recognize park boundaries, and once you start taking out members of a pack, it disrupts the pack to the point that they may not be seen again, Less wolves, less tourists, less money for the locals.

Penny Oliverio South Lyon, MI

319. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am a frequent visitor to Montana to photograph wolves not kill them! Please limit the killings! Thank you.

Hunting District Comment: The smaller/fewer the boundaries the better!

Dean Swartz New Albany, OH

320. Need 365 open day wolf season.

Taylor Woods Simms, MT

321. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am for lower wolf quotas.

Hunting District Comment: I like no hunting zones next to Yellowstone.

Nina Blakley Sun City, AZ

322. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower the quota to one from 2!!..

Hunting District Comment: None

John Deborde Galena, OH

323. **Wolf Season Comment:** I make a trip out to Yellowstone twice a year specifically to hopefully get a glimpse of the wolves. I hope the people that make the final decision in Montana regarding wolf hunting come to the realization that people from all over the world come to see the wolves in the wild. Please protect this valuable treasure

Hunting District Comment: I wish there to be no hunting near and around the park. It's a shame that people still have little regard to our beautiful wildlife that is so unique from the other states

Rochelle Palm Beach Gardens, FL

324. **Wolf Season Comment:** Though I am relieved to see a reduction from 2 to 1 kills for this year...I don't see ANY reason for even that 1. THERE IS NO REASON. Some man with a gun will kill a wolf...and then??? What does he get? A dead wolf, a pelt, a head that is stuffed. Where's the sport, where's the equal gun in the wolf hands? You call this worthwhile hunting? Not even a meal to be gained from that death. THERE IS NO REASON TO KILL A WOLF, SHORT OF THE MALE EGO. Wake up, let go of this folly...find a new place to lie to your ego.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no wolves killed, and no reason for any boundary restrictions.

Libby McLaren Oakland, CA

325. Although I don't live in Montana, I dropped several thousand dollars there last March while attending a wolf-watching tour. It was a life-changing experience to see wolves in the wild and I've recommended your state to several people since! The more wolves present, the more tourists like me will come to watch them. Therefore, I recommend lowering the hunting quota along Yellowstone's boundaries.

Anna Hess Athens, OH

326. I thinking the proposal for only one wolf is great. I will be visiting Yellowstone in April and the primary reason is to see wolves and hopefully get some pictures. I do hope the wolves are there for me.

Mary R Price Boulder, CO

327. I am strongly in favor of reducing the quotas on the number of walls that can be killed. I have visited Yellowstone nine times solely to view and photograph wolves. These animals deserve to

be protected, not only because of the great financial benefit they bring to the state of Montana, but also because they are a keystone species that is key to a healthy environment.

Ann Rio Rancho, NM

328. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should be no reduced quotas. The Northern elk herd needs as much help as possible.

Hunting District Comment: The park is the park.

Stephen Smith BOZEMAN, MT

329. **Wolf Season Comment:** I don't believe that the wolf numbers should be lowered in either districts I think they need to be higher

Hunting District Comment: I think if u expand to hunting districts it will bite people in the butt if numbers get dropped or shut down

Wray Livingston, MT

330. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves absolutely need to be able to be open season Hunted as a predator.

Hunting District Comment: Statewide

Don Mork Sanders, MT

331. **From:** Ed Miller <edmiller200@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 3:51 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Quota for units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

I want to thank each of you for the opportunity for comment. I have the opportunity to visit Yellowstone about once a year. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to take a guided wolf watching tour and it blew me away. It is now something I look forward to every year. I have great respect for hunting and hunters but have come to appreciate those who enjoy wolves by watching them through scopes. I was pleased to learn of your tentative decision to reduce the wolf quota to one in units 313 and 316 and hope you make it permanent.

The last trip I was there, people in Gardiner and in our group watching the Junction Butte wolf pack expressed much sadness about the loss of wolf 926 from the Lamar Canyon Pack to hunting. There was much anxiety about the future of wolves in Yellowstone. I've read quite a bit about wolves on the Facebook page The 06 Legacy and what I could find out on the web. It appears that the elk population is doing much better and the vast majority of Montana is available for hunting. By reducing the quotas it strikes me as a "win-win" so that those who hunt and those who watch through their scopes and cameras can all enjoy wolves in their own way. There is too much division in our country and it's really nice to see some compromise.

Thank you for your service, great work and hearing me out

Sincerely,

Ed Miller

332. **From:** carexcarla@aol.com <carexcarla@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 1:16 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposal to Change Wolf Quota in Units 313 and 316

Dear Montana Wildlife Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. **I respectfully request that you reduce the wolf take quota in WMU 313 and 316 to one wolf in each unit.**

As an annual tourist to Montana, your decision will significantly impact my future plans for returning to your State. We travel by car each year to visit Yellowstone National Park - **Wolves are the primary reason**. We typically spend a week traveling within Yellowstone Park **and** surrounding areas to include Gardiner; **I spend a minimum of \$1300.00** - my cost share for these annual trips. If Montana continues to hunt our wolves for trophy, I will boycott with my dollars. **If there were no wolves, I would discontinue visiting Montana. I would not support your state with my tourism dollars.**

My passion/love for wolves spans 30+ years. This iconic species is the West; **Yellowstone their home**. You have the decision making power - to impact these wolves, population size and number of wolves residing in the northern range. Units 313 and 316 are critical for wolves - an impact adverse for any Pack. Since legalized hunting, Sen. Mike Phillips reported: of 37 Yellowstone wolves killed, 30 were killed in units 313 and 316, in spite of the fact they spent at least 95% of their lives in the Park.

The benefits of wolves in Yellowstone or their natural ranges is well documented. Their contribution to natural ecosystems, well researched. They cull sick, old and injured wildlife species; provide food for innumerable species in the food chain. In natural environments, Pack stability is critical; they are the attractant that provide your state and others - with tourism. Only 2 fewer wolves to take.

A native of South Dakota, my childhood was spent west of the Mississippi River. Time in Montana. I loved the West. My father - Respected all wildlife - Embraced all species; zero tolerance for abuse of wildlife. He would have been a strong advocate for Wolves; I thank him, honor his memory and speak for him today. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Karla Leithoff

333. **From:** redrockc@aol.com <redrockc@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:07 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf quota for 316 & 313

Thanks for your consideration to reduce the wolf hunting quota in wolf management units 313 & 316 to 1 wolf from the current 2 that are allowed to be killed

Thank you for your time, Wayne Chittenden

334. **From:** madeintahoe@aol.com <madeintahoe@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 1:57 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf quota 313 & 316 units

Dear Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners

Thank you all for your consideration to reduce the wolf hunting quota in wolf management units 313 & 316 to 1 wolf allowed to be killed in each unit from the current 2 in each unit.

Yellowstone National Park being a World Heritage Site as well is really the only place in the lower 48 where one can come and hopefully be lucky enough to see wild natural wolves in their environment..people from all over the world come in hopes of seeing wolves. Myself included travel many miles to Yellowstone so I can see wolves, the beauty of them living in their rightful lands is a very enjoyable experience for myself and something I look forward to each year...each visit I learn more on just how important wolves are living on the landscape keeping both prey and predator species healthy as well as the flora..they help balance out all the wild animals and plant life.

As the years go by more and more people are finding out and educating themselves on the plight of the wolves..more people are coming to Yellowstone in hopes of seeing wolves. The money that these people bring to the gateway community towns of West Yellowstone, Gardiner, Silver Gate, Cooke City and even the Cody area of WY. all helps these towns and the local residents that live there...they count on these monies to keep their towns running...without the people coming to see wolves they are loosing money. It is so important to have a healthy wolf population in Yellowstone for these people to be able to have a chance to see them...the population of park wolves is down and part of that is because of park wolves being killed due to the hunting season. Wolves do not know where the park boundary is to keep them safe...they sometimes travel out of those safe areas.

The world famous 06 wolf of the Lamar Canyon Pack was killed in 2012 going outside the boundary and her daughter 926F killed just outside the boundary in 2019. Having one less wolf being killed in units 313 & 316 is not going to take away any hunting opportunities from any hunter...but look what it could do to the wildlife watching community where there are more wolves to see and the money it will bring to those

gateway towns. It is obvious that wolves are worth more alive than dead.

Please keep in mind that both units 316 & 316 have gone over the quota in the past...and just recently in unit 313 3 wolves were killed not the 2 so already over quota.

Please I ask you all to vote to reduce the quota in wolf management units 316 & 316 to 1 wolf allowed to be killed in each units to the current 2....this is the smart thing to do for all involved and will assure there will be wolves for wildlife watchers to come and enjoy seeing plus it will continue to keep those monies coming to the gateway towns. How lucky we are to have a place where we can come to see these amazing beautiful wolves..the enjoyment they give to so many people, the monies they bring to help the local economy. That alone should be reason to do all we can to keep them around and by reducing the quotas will be a wonderful thing you can do.

Thank you so much for your time reading my concerns and consideration

Anita Chittenden

Lake Tahoe, Ca.

335. **From:** Scott Wolff <swolff@d.umn.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 7:04 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Scott Wolff <swolff@d.umn.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf issue n tourism dolly

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am a former Montana resident. The re-introduction of the wolf to Yellowstone has been the most fascinating wildlife event of my lifetime. My wife and I travel back frequently to enjoy this viewing, however it has been compromised by hunting along the margins of the park. Each trip we make we spend a minimum of \$1000 in Gardiner or Silvegate. We have canceled two trips at the last moment due to hunting deaths of enigmatic wolves, specifically "06" and 926. In addition to the loss of the individuals, it affects pack behavior and reduces the visibility for those of us who enjoy watching them within the park boundaries. Obviously they do not understand our boundaries. Protecting the few packs that roam outside the park would reduce your quota by only five animals, that is not a great reduction in terms of overall huntability throughout the state. it would increase the money we spend in the area when we visit. The loss of a scientific data and information in the behavior of wolves in the wild unaffected by human depredation is significant.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolff

336. **From:** Amy Long <amylong13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 11:05 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to wolf quota in units 313 & 316

Hello,

I write this email in support of the amendment to reduce the quota to one wolf for units 313 and 316. As the wife of a hunter I feel this is more than enough for these units especially since there are so many other areas to hunt wolves.

Please contact me with any questions at amylong13@gmail.com. Thank you.

Amy Long

337. **From:** Karol Henckel Miller <kjhenckel@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 1:32 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to reduce wolf hunting quotas in WMU 313 and WMU 316

Dear Montana Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,

Thank you for proposing to reduce the wolf quotas in WMU 313 and WMU 316. I am writing to you in support of this decision.

Even though I live in a state containing a population of wolves, I travel to your beautiful state at least twice per year to see wolves in Yellowstone National Park. I am one of the non-consumptive wolf watchers who line the park roads on any given day in hopes to seeing wolves.

I've scoped beside Montanans and I've scoped beside people from all over the country. We all have one thing in common; we come to Yellowstone because it's the only place in the world we can come to and have a reasonable chance to see wolves in the wild.

I started a Facebook page called The 06 Legacy. We post about Yellowstone wolves and have grown to over 110,000 followers worldwide. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks for proposing to lower the quotas in the two units.

The combined area of the two units is small in comparison to the vast part of Montana that is available to hunt wolves. The two fewer wolves that would be taken by hunters represent less than 1% of the 2017 statewide total.

I respectfully ask that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the wolf hunting quotas in WMU 313 and WMU 316 to one wolf per unit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karol Miller

**338. From: Corey Y <corefocus70@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 5:46 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316**

To Whom it may concern

Hi, my name is Corey Young and I urge the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners to reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 316 and 313 to one wolf per unit down from 2 per unit.

Although, I would say that oftentimes those numbers end up being more due to the lag between the kill and the reporting of that kill.

I frequently visit Yellowstone to watch and learn about wolves and without them I would only go a fraction as much and every trip I spend at least \$1200.00 at surrounding businesses.

Ever since one of our most famous wolves was killed in November of 2018, 926F, and the fact that she was killed because she was habituated to, and trusted people, I have decided not to spend my money in

any businesses I know who support wolf hunting in the buffer zones around Yellowstone. I am keeping to a minimum, my spending in Montana in general until more protective measures are put in place for our Yellowstone wolves.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Corey Young

339. **From:** Mark Armati <mark.armati@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 2:30 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; sonnybutt55@gmail.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposal to Change Wolf Quotas in Units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully request the following:

- Please reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316.
- Please note that wolves have not reduced the Elk population in these units.
- Please note that many of the wolves taken in these units are Yellowstone wolves.
- Please note that hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units.
- Please note that wolves are plentiful elsewhere.
- Please note that demographic changes support reducing the quotas.
- Please note that data reveals that Units 313 and 316 have exceeded quotas in the past.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

From two Lykophiles (lovers of wolves) who follow the (news of) wolves,

Carol Butler and
Mark G.K. Armati
East Haddam, CT

340. **From:** David Oglesby <david.steph.oglesby@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 11:15 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

To the Fish and Wildlife Commissioners of Montana:

My wife and I respectfully request that you combine and lower the wolf-take quotas for Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 down to a single wolf.

First of all, thank you for considering our request. Second, thank you for extending the comment period. If you hadn't we would not have been able to give you our input.

Yellowstone National Park is one of the most beautiful, intriguing and intact ecosystems in the world. It gives us the chance to see the complex interplay between predator and prey species. The predators don't always win and sometimes die during their failed attempts.

In 2018 my wife and I watched a Yellowstone wolf pack of fifteen chase elk eight distinct times in a single morning. Those were full-out chases, not just feints and testing. None were successful.

Wolves are part of that natural environment and they follow elk out of the Park into 313 and 316 Wolf Management Units.

- They have not reduced elk herds in Unit 313: the elk population was "at objective" in 2011 and had increased 76% to 5,738 elk to "over objective".

I frequently hear my friends say that "wolves are killing all the elk". Evidence shows otherwise in Units 313 and 316:

- In 2018, hunters in unit 313 took 38% more elk than in 2011.
- In 2018, hunters in unit 316 took 173% more elk than in 2011.
- In both units the Hunter Success Rate was higher in 2018 than in 2011.

Please consider these facts closely as you settle on the wolf quota for 313 and 316.

Now, a little background:

We lived in Alaska for over 32 years and had our first opportunity to visit Yellowstone in 2009 when we moved to Spokane WA. We had both worked for the concessionaire at Denali National Park and thought that it was the premier park of the USA.

Over the last 10 years we have visited YNP at least 14 times and consider it the jewel of all our Parks. Our goal since 2011 has always been to observe wolves. We have spent our time in the Blacktail Plateau, Slough Creek, Lamar Valley, Soda Butte, and Barronnette Peak areas to watch them, areas that border game units to the North.

In 2019 we spent 3 months in Gardiner. In 2020 we will spend another 3 months. We have already booked visits in 2021 that will total yet another 3 months.

We drive 10 hours from Spokane and make short or overnight stays in Missoula, Butte, and Bozeman. We spend our weeks lodged in mainly Gardiner and have many local friends there now. It's where we have our car serviced, buy gasoline, groceries, hardware, medical supplies and services, pharmaceuticals, books, clothing, baked goods, use the laundromats and eat at local restaurants.. Over the years we've purchased more than \$15,000 in optical equipment alone there.

We have also lodged in Silver Gate and Cooke City and eat there at local restaurants.

Perhaps best of all we buy a lot of Wilcoxson's ice cream...in 2018 we took 8 cartons home packed in dry ice because we love it so much.

Gardiner has become our second home, a place where we feel very comfortable and welcomed. We are there because we want to observe wolves in a natural setting and we are always eager to return. Please respect our love of wildlife, whether predator or prey.

Thank you sincerely,

David and Stephanie Oglesby

Spokane WA

(509) 944 6694

341. **From:** *Krisztina Gayler* <ponokomitta@gmail.com>

Sent: *Sunday, January 26, 2020 5:46 PM*

To: *FWP Commission* <FWPComm@mt.gov>

Subject: *[EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316*

To Whom it may concern

My name is Krisztina Gayler.

And I Respectfully request that the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

The Only reason I make trips very often is because the more I have learned about Wolves in Yellowstone National Park, the more I want to know. I have become part of many organizations, that are helping with research, and educating the public about the important role Wolves play in a healthy Ecosystem.

The realization of the importance of Wolves in the wild has continued to grow in me, and has gotten stronger after every single visit.

Since we can observe and learn about them closely in Yellowstone, I am spending my hard-earned dollars in the surrounding towns, as in Gardiner, Silver Gate, and Cooke City, before one of our well known wolves was killed by a Cooke City resident, business owner in Cooke City..

I have not spent any dollars there since. None !

In every trip I spend at least \$1000.00 for gas, and food, plus lodging, camping, gifts and membership at Yellowstone Association, which is now Yellowstone Forever, where we also donate for the Yellowstone Wolf Project.

I approximately spend about \$5000.00 - \$10000.00 per year during my visits.

After few of our wolves have been killed just outside of the park, which wolves I have been watching and following their daily lives, I witness how they trust Humans, after they have been habituated by millions of visitors per year.

Since one of our most famous wolves was killed in November of 2018, I have decided not to spend my hard-earned dollars in businesses who support wolf hunting in these areas.

So I am keeping down, to the minimum, my spending in Montana. Only the gas which I can't avoid.

I considered even moving to Montana because of Wolves, as great opportunity to treasure a more balanced Wildlife.

I have no problem with hunting for meat, but I can't see the real need of the wolf hunting quotas just outside of a World Famous National Park, where these animals don't know and don't understand artificial human Boundary lines and constraints.

I would consider spending more and spending more of my time in Montana, if the wolf hunting would stop North of Yellowstone, at WMUs 313 and 316. However I respect the fact, the quota can't be zero as the law was made before the reintroduction. Therefore, I highly support, propose the idea of lowering the quota in both unite 313 and 316 from 2 to 1.

These animals represent and mean so much to hundreds of thousands of people, who are watching and following their lives on a daily basis.

The Government spends tremendous dollars on Wolf Research, which has helped the World to better understand the Real Wolf, rather than the fairy tale version.

Just does not make sense to me to destroy these Families (Packs), especially one important member of the pack, as most cases show that trophy hunters are after the adults, the alpha animals. I also follow the data year by year, even in person in September, October, November visits, the quota is hardly ever stops at the limit of 2. Many times it is over taken by 3 animals. This number actually totally can destroy a pack.

37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. (2019 comment by Senator Phillips to Montana Senate re: SB 185) So the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's Northern Range helps determine the number of wolves hunted outside the park in 313 and 316. In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2011) Talking Points for Commissioner Email 2 In 2018, they counted 39 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2018) While the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%.

Please consider these facts before you make your final decision

Thank you for kind consideration of this matter.

With all Respect and Best Regards,

Krisztina Gayler

--

Krisztina Gayler

Colorado Representative at National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Ranching Out-reach, Livestock Guardian Dogs

Coalition Member at Rocky Mountain Wolf Project

Contractor at MoRak Farm & Ranch LLC

Mailing: POBox 161. Livermore, Colorado 80536

Cell: [970 372 7402](tel:9703727402)

342. **From:** Ryan <ryan.photographer.guy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 11:59 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Official Wolf Hunting Policy Comment

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks:

Consider this my comment, submitted on time, the 27th.

Although the "wolves" of Yellowstone are exactly what I'd hoped for in some ways photographically (professional wildlife photographer for many years), and although I've said it for years thinking it might be sort of a slight exaggeration of their previous range, recently, I consulted a map, and some of these "wolves" originated from the Prophet River in Canada. Trace that watershed down past the Nahanni Park of Canada, and it's about the most continental, landlocked, northerly, mountainous, cold region you could find in North America, emptying into the Arctic Ocean in the Yukon or Northwest Territories adjacent to Alaska. Very harsh cold, presumably. So, these are rightly called Mackenzie wolves, full name, just like people know there's a grand slam of sheep, Dall Stone Rocky Mountain Desert, maybe even a few more. Wolves also have subspecies, Mexican Wolf, etc. It's not a trivial difference, Mexican wolves are smaller, among other things, with Mackenzie wolves being the largest. I almost think that in addition to pack structure, some extra large individuals just hunt on their own, seen that on occasion, and heard that too. Anyway, size isn't everything, but socially they also run in packs that average about 20 right now, and they can rebound very fast.

Although I used to think wouldn't it be cool if Paradise Valley were in the Park, I don't think that now, because it provides a needed refuge for the elk, with most of the elk residing outside the Park, having been somewhat technically decimated, a 10th left.

For this reason, I support maintaining the 2 wolf at least in Paradise Valley.

At the same time, there was a wolf called "spitfire" You'll have to look up the exact number, I'm sort of dyslexic, that really knew how to comport herself around people and was a Park Wolf. The Lamar Pack got pushed out of the Park by the Junctions, and started going back to the territory of the new Alpha male perhaps from the Beartooths. As a result, this wolf was taken in the hunt. Somehow, try to avoid that, it doesn't help from public relations, and also that wolf trusted people.

Also, PLEASE consider the case from Banff this past year where a man was bit in his tent by a wolf. These are Canadian Wolves, and I found out about it a roundabout way on what some would consider fringe biology website, who knows. Anyway, actual report, someone ran to help and they fought it off throwing rocks I think? Maybe that's another story, anyway, it's definitely in the Canadian papers. So this wolves are completely harmless animals at all times needs to be dispelled for people's safety in my opinion. Do they often leave people alone, it would seem so.

However, I personally had an encounter with the Junction Butte "pups" completely accidentally, and it maybe only turned out OK because I was loaded for bear, grizzly bear (no firearms, I don't mean that, as much

pepper spray as I could carry, though it didn't come to that.)
Anyway, since I don't have this trust for wolves that everyone else has, when I saw them sneaky go off to the side like a wolf will, I went to my safe spot, which, because the trees weren't that climbable was a 45 degree broken off tree log, inclined at a 45 degree angle at the top of a cliff. So, they all poured over the ridge, the size of African Wild dogs at a few months, and not that different 7 blacks, one grey, and maybe a black yearling for good measure. They stood there and stared at me in V formation at very close range, from the end of the log. So I didn't lose it, I only glanced at them once, I'm trying to survive here. Maybe they only wanted to lick me, but they aren't dogs. I'm out of time here. My point is, that hunting, in addition to providing some security to elk because wolves avoid those areas some, is that it helps maintain a healthy fear of people with the wolves, I'd think.

343. **From:** Cheryl Landi <CherylRobinLandi@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:42 PM
To: FWP General <fwpgen@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2020-2021 wolf proposed hunting season changes

Dear sir or madam: I am writing this regarding the 2020-2021 wolf proposed hunting season changes. I am not a resident of Montana but San Diego, California. But I hope you will consider my comment when you you review your proposal

I visit the park at least 3 or more times a year, entering via Gardiner, Montana, to watch the wolves in Yellowstone. I have been on adventures all over the world including but not limited to Uganda to trek Gorillas, Sumatra to trek orangutans, the Arctic to see polar bears and of course Kenya; however, my favorite place is Yellowstone to see the wolves. I have been following the packs for nearly 15 years now. There is nothing like arriving early morning, before sunrise, into the park to see if I will be fortunate enough to view this majestic, beautiful and iconic animal, the wolf. And I'm not the only one. I have met people from all over the country and world, there, doing the same thing. I hope you understand the importance of this valuable resource you have. I have noticed the park changes since I started coming. When the wolves are thriving, the park seems alive. When the wolves are mangy or sick, just the opposite. I am now seeing otters, so rare before. Beavers, who would have thought they would make a return. Adding this predator has restored a natural balance in the park just as predicted. But the wolf is something else. They are an amazing ambassador bringing like-minded people from all over to see the magnificence of Yellowstone and the wolf and other wildlife, including bison, my second favorite. We

tourists, stay in hotels, eat at your restaurants, hire your guides, rent your cars, etc. and bring revenue into such places as Gardiner, Bozeman, Emigrant, Chico and West Yellowstone, etc

I would ask a zero quota for hunting wolves and zero tolerance. I say this because the wolves naturally regulate their packs. Mortality is high amongst pups. And it really saddens me when a wolf I watched last year such as 926f, is shot outside of Cooke City because she crossed that magical boundary that only humans are aware of and take advantage of.

In conclusion, if you must sell tags and hunt wolves, please keep it to a minimum of no more than one wolf, in either district 313 or 316. I know there are a lot of locals that are changing their views about the wolf and a lot who haven't. I hope you will include this outsiders comments. I will be there in March, doing what I always do, telescope in hand, looking for a wolf! Sincerely, Cheryl Landi

Sent from my iPhone

344. **Zac Radandt** <zradandt@hammerhaag.com>
season setting comments

I do not support the reduction in wolf harvest quotes in WMUs 313 and 316. There is no biological justification for such changes.

I support the proposals for deer, elk, moose, lion, bear and antelope.

Zac Radandt

Chief Business Development Officer

Mobile [314-420-0912](tel:314-420-0912)

Office [727-216-6903](tel:727-216-6903) x 203

Fax [1-866-216-4374](tel:1-866-216-4374)

12707 US HWY 19 N.

Clearwater, FL 33764

www.hammerhaag.com [hammerhaag.com]

345. **From: John Borgreen** <jjjd2@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 10:00 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Cc: Williams, Martha <Martha.Williams@mt.gov>; **Kujala, Quentin** <qkujala@mt.gov>;

McDonald, Ken <kmcdonald@mt.gov>; Loecker, Cory <cloecker@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MSA Comment

Chairman Colton and Commissioners,

I would like to submit the following comments in regard to the current season seeing process.

First, I am fully supportive of the proposed Mule Deer/White-Tailed Deer 5 week season in HD: 400,401,403,406 for the year 2020.

The on the ground management science warrants this change, and with the growing threat of CWD it is warranted as well. There also appears to be fairly strong land owner support.

The Reg.4 staff has put a tremendous amount of effort and time in developing this proposal and I ask you give it the consideration it warrants.

Below are the ESS comments presented by the Montana Sportsmen Alliance. As a member of the MSA Leadership Team I was involved in the process of developing this document , and as such would respectfully request they be accepted and considered as my personal comments as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process , And thank you for all your hard work and dedication on behalf of the resource , the sportsmen and sportswomen of Montana and for protecting and promoting our valued hunting, fishing, trapping and conservation heritage.

John Borgreen

The Montana Sportsmen Alliance, MSA is the voice of reason for Montana resident hunters and anglers. Our leadership group and the many sportsmen and women hale from many places on the Montana map.

MSA would like to thank Chairman Colton and the Commission for making substantial changes to the 2020-2021 elk proposals.

First things first; the present Elk Management Plan is still valid today, it is the standard of the industry, so to speak, and as relevant today as it was in January 2005 when it was unanimously approved by the Commission. Although the EMP has never been fully implemented we strongly feel The EMP has been violated many times resulting from individuals, both in and out of the Department that wanted to take shortcuts or substitutions to circumvent the plan. Actually, the ESS is one such substitution for the EMP.

The next thing is the matter of the third elk tag. This is unbelievable that special interests can run something through our Montana Legislature while not even hiding their intended goals. The third elk tag is a travesty in opportunity and ethics and needs to be watered down as much as possible. It is nothing more than turning our public trust elk into so much vermin.

MSA has never agreed with the ESS, we went along because we are team players that want to help with any situation that may arise. We also grudgingly agreed to the ESS because they came with specific criteria. We took the department at their word and we intend to have them keep it.

Regarding the ESS, we do want to thank those individuals within the Department that made strides to remove ESS from those Hunt Districts not meeting the criteria.

We have formulated some ideas that we will briefly put to paper, as with anything MSA puts out to the public we will be happy to expound upon and visit with any of the Commissioners, Department personnel and others in the hunting community.

- The ESS were never meant to replace the general seasons, let's ensure the ESS do not become the season of choice.
- Eliminate all ESS prior to the regular archery and end them no later than January 1, with special attention paid to those landowners that have made every effort to help themselves while helping hunters. Real "Skin in the Game" These landowners are our neighbors, let's treat them as such.

- Elk numbers have to be trending in the right direction prior to continuing any ESS.
 - As per the valid EMP, let's place strong consideration on antlerless-only seasons until objectives are achieved.
 - We suggest coming up with not only objective numbers but distribution numbers as well, extra work for sure, but we're all Montanans and used to hard work.
 - Quantitatively evaluate all elk hunting seasons and according to harvest criteria and base decisions on actual performance.
 - Provide a transparent database of the numbers of elk harvested by non-residents; broken out by bulls, cows, and calves; outfitted or non.
 - As per the EMP, exempting from objectives "inaccessible elk" (primarily on private lands)
- 1) Use of sub-objectives, again part of the present EMP. We will offer a further review of this use according to the EMP.**

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- Realistic elk objectives

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- Establish elk working groups with equal stakeholders statewide as the Devil's Kitchen group. Set the rules at consensus-driven. Each group messages the Commission and Department directly on items where consensus is reached, not through Department employees or commissioners individually.

- A clear need to revitalize the hunt roster/damage hunt program to ensure effective and equitable participation while maintaining expediency to benefit all stakeholders.

To continue the stated 1. From the last page. In the present EMP, it was presupposed that the Adaptive Harvest Management would provide tools necessary to manage elk to accomplish the objectives. We have to realize that in many areas of Montana that “de facto” refuges exist. Reality is these elk numbers are mostly impossible or completely impossible to manage to an objective, in those instances, elk in those refuges could be counted separately and sub-objectives established. This could be very helpful to those landowners that suffer the negative effects of neighboring elk that are off-limits to the public.

In closing MSA again, wishes to thank the Commission for their work. We wish to have our comment added to the official record.

Respectfully submitted,

MSA Leadership Group

John Borgreen, Great Falls

Jeff Herbert, Helena

Doug Krings, Lewistown

Laura Lundquist, Missoula

Sam Milodragovich, Butte

Joe Perry, Conrad

Steve Schindler, Glasgow

E. Don Thomas, Lewistown

Dale Tribby, Miles City

JW Westman, Park City

Robert Wood, Hamilton

346. **From:** Tom Combs <ohiofuzz30@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 12:03 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 comments

January 26, 2020

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commissioners

1420 East Sixth Avenue

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Board of Commissioners,

We are writing to you as 16-year residents of Idaho who spend a considerable amount of time every year recreating throughout Montana in and around the Gallatin River and Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem specifically.

As regular visitors and recreators to your beautiful state, we would respectfully ask your consideration to reduce the quota in wolf management units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. Statistics from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) counted 3,259 elk in unit 313 and considered that unit "at objective" (2011 Statewide Elk Estimate, MFWP). In 2018 unit 313 had 5,738 elk. The population had increased by 76% over the 2011 count and was "over objective" (2018 Statewide Elk Trend Estimate, MFWP). Wolves are clearly not eliminating the opportunity to hunt elk in these areas, and one could have a spirited conversation that wolves are helping control sick and diseased animals, strengthening elk herds, and further offering more quality elk hunting opportunities.

Unlike Wyoming, your commission has recognized the importance of healthy wildlife populations and taken preventive steps to prevent chronic wasting disease (CWD). As Wyoming continues to operate elk feed grounds which helps contribute to the spread of CWD towards Montana and Idaho borders, reducing the quota in units 313 and 316 provides further barrier to CWD, allowing wolves to take down sick animals, thus allowing for healthy herds and healthy ecosystems.

Many wolves killed in units 313 and 316 are Yellowstone wolves that cross over outside of the park boundary. The 2005 MFWP Elk Management Plan states that units 313 and 316 support the

Northern Yellowstone elk herd. Yellowstone wolves follow this food source whether the elk are in the park or outside the park in units 313 and 316. One can only reasonably believe that that herd and those wolves who travel into areas 313 and 316 likely return to Yellowstone in spring as the snow melt allows.

We would suggest that there are fewer wolf hunters and many more wildlife watchers to these areas making wolves in these units much more valuable alive. We travel to Yellowstone and Montana each spring with around 25 other people just to see wolves. We spend our entire time looking for wildlife and particularly enjoy seeing wolves, especially the Junction Butte, 8 Mile, and Molly Packs who all have territory along the northern border of Yellowstone and the state of Montana. We also spend time in Montana and support many local businesses on our journey. Without wolves in the area, there would be much less reason to visit and we've already noticed the impact the loss of several key wolves has had on the wolf packs and enjoyment of seeing wolves in the area.

Twenty-one percent more visitors came from around the world to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011. Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild. Watching wolves or grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone, according to a NPS study. A 2018 peer reviewed NPS study found Yellowstone visitors still ranked seeing wildlife as just below "extremely important." Not only have more wildlife watchers come, they've contributed 28% more money into local communities in 2018 than they spent in 2012 (NPS data). Our visitor dollars create jobs in the Montana gateway communities of Gardiner, Silver Gate/Cooke City, and West Yellowstone to name a few and aid in the overall health of the Montana economy statewide.

As regular recreationists, wildlife watchers, and visitors to the state of Montana, we ask for your consideration in the reduction in units in 313 and 316.

Respectfully,

Tom and Kristin Combs

347. **From:** marc@wolvesoftherockies.org <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 4:31 PM
To: FWP Commission <FwComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2020 Wolf Proposal Comments

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting the comments for the Wolves of the Rockies organization. These comments are for the 2020 wolf proposal comments meant for the wildlife division

and standing commissioners. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Respectful submitted and thanks for your help!

Marc

--

Marc Cooke

Wolves of the Rockies

Email: Marc@wolvesoftherockies.org

Web: Wolvesoftherockies.org

Facebook: Wolves of the Rockies

Twitter: Wolves of the Rockies

Instagram: Wolves of the Rockies

TeLCel: 1.406.493.5945



26 January 2020

Dear Commissioners,

Wolves of the Rockies would like to acknowledge each commissioner and the vital role they play in the management of all Montana's wildlife.

Montana's wolf management is by design liberal, which ensures the maxim human-caused wolf mortality possible. Since the State of Montana received authority to manage wolves in 2009, there has been no effort to dial back hunting and trapping wolf mortality. This sends a clear message to those that value wolves on the landscape. Montana will manage wolves to the lowest threshold and still prevent the triggering of a federal relisting under the Endangered Species Act.

Meanwhile, elk populations are hurting livestock producers financially. Elk populations are at or mostly above population objectives mandated by the state legislature under HB 42 Senator Debbie Barrett. When wolf reintroduction took place, Montana had approximately 95,000 elk. Now Montana supports more than 175,000 elk.

Now chronic wasting disease (CWD) is showing its ugly presence in Montana ungulates. WotR recently attended the Montana Chronic Wasting Disease discussion with Montana Environmental Quality Council. WotR walked away from this 3 1/2 hour informative hearing startled and very concerned. From the research that suggests CWD may at some point jump to humans that consume these infected meats or organs to the loss of revenue, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks operates. The question was asked by EQC public member Scott Aspenlieder "Do wolves or carnivores spread CWD? The answer from the conference call was clear and supportive of the wolves. No, but they help by degrading the prions that pass through their digestive tract.

Now Montana agriculture and livestock producers are facing the imminent threat of feral swine, already causing several billion dollars in damage each year to the AG industry. The states that currently have feral swine are devoid of large predators. I can only speculate that if these states had large carnivores would feral swine be as prevalent in their wildlife system? Montana has an opportunity to help agricultural and livestock producers by reducing human-caused mortality to wolves.

Yellowstone National Park has a proven track record of producing large amounts of long term sustainable revenue. Four million tourists visited Yellow National Park the last several years. Hundred or more of these individuals come to Lamar Valley each day with one motive, and that's to see a wolf. Why are Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks wildlife division support the killing of these economic engines?

Yes, wolves kill livestock! WotR has fought and supported both the creation and adequate funding of the Montana Livestock Loss Board. Helping livestock producer that have lost cattle to wolves is the right move to make. And for the rancher thinking outside the box and trying to live with wolves and other carnivores, WotR has supported their efforts both financially and publicly. All the while, M+FWP is hell-bent on driving their wolf population to the lowest number possible without trigger the Endangered Species Act review.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks are facing several potentially department changing challenges. Hunting popularity is declining or static at best. All the while, there is an aggressive competition by other states for this same hunter license revenue. Still M+FWP is avoiding the non-consumptive wildlife enjoying public revenue stream potential.

Wolves of the Rockies supports Commissioner Stucker's amendment to lower the wolf quota in WMU 313 & 316. We request that an additional amendment be considered because,

more often than not, these two WMU's have a history of surpassing the quota as happened again this year. Keeping in mind WMU 313 & 316 is an area that sets the bar on wolves killed in Montana illegally.

WotR also respectfully requests that the wolf hunting season close when trapping season closes on the last day of February.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Cooke

Marc Cooke
President
Stevensville, Montana

348. *Erin Edge <EEDGE@defenders.org>*
Defenders of Wildlife Comments on 2020-2021 Wolf Season Setting

Please accept the attached comments on the 2020-2021 Wolf Season Setting.

Thank you



Erin Edge

Rockies and Plains Representative

[DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE](#)

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www.defenders.org

January 27, 2020
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Wildlife Division
Attn: Biennial Setting - Wolf
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Submitted electronically at: fwpwd@mt.gov

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the upcoming 2020-2021 biennial season setting. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit conservation organization founded in 1947 focused on conserving and restoring native species and the habitat upon which they depend. We submit the following comments on behalf of our more than 1.8 million members and supporters nationwide, including more than 5,000 in Montana.

Wolf Mortality

Montana could improve broad public trust in state management of species like wolves by better incorporating the ecological importance of wolves into the state management plan. The science does not support the need for lethal removal of hundreds of wolves in Montana each year. The 2018 wolf report states that the Patch Occupancy Model (POM) estimated population size is 819 wolves and that total documented mortality was 341 wolves (2018 Wolf Report, p. iv and 15). The mortality number does not incorporate unknown levels of human-caused mortality and it is unclear what the long-term sustainability of the wolf population may be given this rate of mortality. We urge you to reconsider the decision to continue to reduce the wolf population in Montana by hundreds of wolves each year. Some steps that should be taken to minimize the likelihood of a long-term decline include instituting a statewide quota system, shortening the wolf season and reducing the number of wolves one hunter can take.

Science

Defenders recognizes the ongoing science presented in the 2018 annual report and encourages Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continue to work with the University of Montana to improve the counting methodology and additional research to allow for a better understanding of how hunting and trapping impacts Montana's wolf population over time. As stated in the 2018 wolf report, the Patch Occupancy Model (POM) being used to estimate Montana's wolf population is still being refined. This is important to note since the state has not waited for that refinement or analysis to be complete before moving ahead with using this methodology to base management decisions around the estimate. It is important to base management decisions on a

strong foundation of science regarding impact of mortality rates in the wolf population on long term sustainability and ecological function.

Senate Bill 200 Quota

The quota for Senate Bill 200 – which allows landowners to shoot wolves deemed “threatening” to livestock is unnecessarily high, incentivizes lethal removal rather than conflict prevention and is not based on science but rather anti-wolf rhetoric. We ask the Commission to reduce the quota for landowner take substantially to more accurately reflect the history of wolf removal in “threatening” situations. Additionally, we ask that wolves killed under SB 200 in Wolf Management Units with quotas around the national parks be counted towards those total quotas.

National Park Wolves

In terms of their worldwide social interest and scientific and economic importance, Yellowstone National Park’s wolves are unequivocally prized. We acknowledge that the Commission recognized some of these concerns by reducing the quota in 313 and 316 to one wolf each. Defenders still believes that wolf management units adjacent to our National Parks should have a quota of zero.

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, we appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Edge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Erin" and "Edge" being capitalized and prominent.

Erin Edge
Defenders of Wildlife, Rockies and Plains Representative
eedge@defenders.org